



Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial Lesson Plan for Educators

Topic: Communities Near and Far

Lesson Title: From Nebraska to Vietnam

Level: Third Grade

Focus Statement: Nebraska and Vietnam are almost 8,000 miles apart. Nebraska's geography is vastly different than Vietnam's. This lesson is intended to educate students on the similarities and differences of Nebraska and Vietnam's location characteristics, and to investigate a Nebraska veteran, his hometown and what it might have been like going from Nebraska's environment to Vietnam's environment.

Nebraska Education Standards

Social Studies:

- SS 3.3.1.a Identify and apply map elements.
- SS 3.3.1.b Use a map to identify location and distribution of physical and human features.
- SS 3.3.1.d Locate specific places on maps and globes.
- SS 3.3.1.e Identify the continents, oceans, and hemispheres
- SS 3.3.2.b Compare and contrast local places and regions with other places and regions.
- SS 3.4.b Identify, obtain, and cite appropriate primary and secondary sources for research about the local community.
- SS 3.4.4.c Gather and communicate historical information about the community.

Lesson Objectives

- Students will identify where the state of Nebraska and the country of Vietnam are on maps and globes.
- Students will identify geographic and community characteristics of each location.
- Students will identify and research at least one Nebraska Vietnam Veteran, living or deceased, who spent time in Vietnam.
- Students will collaborate to create an account of what the veteran may have experienced relocating from the environment of Nebraska to the environment of Vietnam.
- Students will share the account with one or more audiences.

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Summary of Tasks/Actions

1. From personal knowledge, or from the NVVM web site, choose a Vietnam veteran, living or deceased, to research.
2. Have students create maps of Nebraska and Vietnam, identifying significant features of each place, such as towns, major cities, rivers, oceans, mountains, etc. Be sure to include the veteran's hometown.
3. Students should compare and contrast characteristics of each location such as population, weather, landscape/ecosystems, etc.
4. To learn more about the chosen veteran and their time and impressions of Vietnam as a country, students can interview the veteran, if living and willing, or a veteran's family member, if willing, Ask questions about the veteran's impressions of their own hometown and the differences and similarities between the two locations.
5. Additionally, have students use secondary sources to gather information about Nebraska, Vietnam, the veteran and the veteran's hometown.
6. If visiting the NVVM, students can gather additional information from the memorial to add to their findings and enhance their report.
7. Students can collaborate to create a report or object, such as a collage or drawing, showing the veteran's journey from his/her hometown to Vietnam, highlighting the similarities and differences between Nebraska and Vietnam.
8. Students can submit their report or photos of their object to the NVVM via social media and to other audiences (such as the veteran's family, his hometown, etc.).

Materials/Equipment

- Maps of geographical regions
- Web sites, books, articles, etc., describing the geography and characteristics of Nebraska and Vietnam
- Internet access (for research, visiting NVVM.org, email, etc.)
- Art supplies, and images/drawings of Nebraska and Vietnam

References/Sources

- NVVM.org
- Search for images of the desired location, adding "no copyright" to the search. Example: *Nebraska landscape images no copyright*
- Britannica.com
- Encyclopedia.com
- Enchantedlearning.com
- 50states.com
- Netstate.com
- Sciencekids.co.nz
- Kids-world-travel-guide.com (Vietnam)