

Lesson: Native Americans at Grand Canyon Today

Duration

30-45 minute lesson

Location

Classroom

Key Vocabulary

Native American tribes

Trunk Materials

Native American PowerPoint “We are Still Here”; Grand Canyon Map

Additional Materials and Equipment Not Supplied

Butcher paper (for the extension activity), DVD player, LCD projector, computer

Enduring Understanding (Big Idea)

Native Americans did not disappear from Grand Canyon when European Americans moved west or when the United States established the Park. They still live, work, and play in the area.

Essential Questions

1. What Native American tribes still live at Grand Canyon?
2. What do Native Americans think of the canyon?
3. What do Native Americans do at or around the canyon?

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to:

1. Name at least 3 Native American tribes at Grand Canyon.
2. Identify Native American tribal locations on a map.
3. Describe different reasons why Native Americans live at Grand Canyon today.
4. Express orally and in writing an understanding of some of the beliefs that Native Americans have of the canyon.

Instructor Background

Many Native American tribes used and lived in Grand Canyon prior to contact with European and American explorers. The tribes used and thought about the canyon in different ways. Native Americans continued to live, work, and play in the area after it became a national park in 1919. Many of these indigenous peoples thought about the canyon lands differently than Euro-Americans and had different names for different places. For instance, Euro-Americans call a mountain near Grand Canyon "Red Butte," whereas the Havasupai word for the mountain translates to "clenched fist mountain." Some Euro-Americans think this mountain would be a good place for mining. Many Havasupai think that the peak has religious significance. Because they see it as a sacred spot, they object to mining it for its resources. While Native Americans have maintained many of their traditional ways and look at some things differently than Euro-Americans, they have also adopted Euro-American ideas and practices. Some Native Americans, for example, now work at Grand Canyon National Park as tour guides.

Suggested Procedures

1. Introduce the idea that Native Americans still live at and around Grand Canyon. They did not disappear when white settlers moved west or when the United States created a National Park.
2. Ask students to name Native American tribes that they know and point on a map where the tribe is located. If students made a Grand Canyon folder in the lesson "Student Created Grand Canyon Folders" have them mark the map on their folders.
3. Create a list of questions students have about Native Americans at Grand Canyon.
4. Watch the PowerPoint as a class.
5. Allow for student questions and discussions while viewing the PowerPoint.
6. Have students summarize verbally and in writing how they think Native Americans view the canyon landscape. Have students give at least one reason to support their thoughts.
7. Have students draw a picture of a place or a person of one of the American Indian tribes.

Evaluations (Assessments)

Use student verbal and written expressions to check for understanding. Evaluate whether students understand where Native Americans live around Grand Canyon National Park and what they think about the land. Evaluate whether students understand that Native Americans still live, play, and work at Grand Canyon. Assess student skills for expressing a clear idea and backing that idea with supporting reasons.

Extension Activities

Create a map on one wall with the butcher paper and label the tribes. If you have access to *Arizona Highways* magazines or other appropriate sources, have students locate pictures of

people from the various Native American tribes at or around the canyon and attach the pictures to the location on the map.

Tech Notes

The PowerPoint presentation “We are still Here” may be shown to the class with a projector or on individual computer screens.

Standards

Arizona Social Studies Standards

S1:C1 Grade 4—P01, P03, P04; Grade 5—P01, P05; Grade 6—P02, P08

S1:C2 Grade 4—P02, Grade 6—P03

S1:C5 Grade 4—P04, Grade 5—P02

S1:C10 Grade 4—P04

Arizona Reading Standards

S3: C1 Grade 4—P04, P06, P08; Grade 5—P05, P06, P08; Grade 6—P05, P08, P09

Arizona Writing Standards

S2: C1 Grade 4—P01, P03; Grade 5—P01, P03; Grade 6—P01, P03