

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

Lesson Title – Trail of Tears

Grade - 5

Length of class period – 60 minutes

Inquiry –What would it have been like to be on the “Trail of Tears.”

Objectives

- Students will read the book *Soft Rain* and relate the main character’s experience on the Trail of Tears to their own experiences as a child. They will write a journal entry as if their family was forced to move out west with the Indians on the Trail of Tears.

Materials

- Jackdaw document 6c from “Indian Resistance in Growing America.” 2002 Jackdaw Publications Div. of Golden Owl Publishing Co., Inc. P.O. Box 503, Amawalk, NY 10501 ISBN: 1-56696-207-2
- The book *Soft Rain* by Cornelia Cornelissen
- Notebook journals

Activities

- Students will read the book *Soft Rain* and keep response journals throughout the book.
- When students have finished reading the book they will write journals entries as if their family were forced to go on the Trail of Tears. How would they feel? Would all of their family members survive? What kind of hardships would they have to endure?

Assessment

- Journal writing
- Classroom discussions

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards –

Educational experiences in Grades 5-8 will assure that students formulate historical questions based on primary sources, including documents, eyewitness accounts, letters and diaries, artifacts, real or simulated historical sites, charts, graphs, diagrams and written texts.