

Thoreau Lesson
ELD1
By Kathy Weingand

Day 1

Text: Henry David Thoreau: American Naturalist by Peter Anderson

What? We are learning about the life of the American author, Henry David Thoreau.

Why? To learn about an important American.

How? We will read a biography about Thoreau and learn about his works.

1. Students are shown a picture of Walden Pond during each season of the year and asked to identify each season's characteristics and then asked to talk about what they see with a partner. Then volunteers share what they see in the picture with the class.
2. Students are shown a picture of a house in the woods, Thoreau's cabin and students make a list of what they see with a partner. Next, students share their list with another pair. See attached.
3. Go over list of vocabulary words and define key vocabulary words: writer, author, naturalist, surveyor, abolitionist.
4. Pass out biographies and students read the biography aloud together with their partner switching off reading.
5. Students make a list of words they do not understand and the teacher defines them on the board while the students read together.

Day 2

Introduce the framing questions: What made Thoreau special?

Why is Thoreau important to American literature?

What was special about Thoreau's writings?

1. Use the biography to answer these to questions and have students pair share.
2. Ask for students to volunteer to share their answers with the class.
3. Present the excerpt "It is worth the while to walk in wet weather; the earth and leaves are strewn with pearls"
4. Students pair share about what Thoreau means. Maybe he means that nature is like a decoration or like jewelry.
5. Students create a Google Doc sheets presentation of 2 sheets with images from the internet representing Henry David Thoreau's relationship with the natural world and submit to Google Classroom. With that they need to prepare sentences to describe how this picture represents Thoreau and students include 1 of the following sentence frames completed with their own

words: Henry David Thoreau is special because..... or Henry David Thoreau is important because.....

6. Students are presented a rubric that will be used for grading.

Day 3

1. Students practice speaking their presentations with a partner before presentation.
2. Students present their google sheets to the class and are graded on the rubric.