

Teaching American History Program
Women in History
Mount Wachusett Community College
Dr. Susan Williams

Unit Plan
by
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Class: Sociology

Grade: 11 and 12

Unit: Women in American History

Statement of Purpose: The purpose of this unit is to discuss the major sociological women's issues during the course of United States history. Lessons will need to include some historical background information from the appropriate era. The unit will also cover topics from a broad range of American history including the Colonial Era, Slave Women, Women in Lowell, and Immigrant Women.

Lesson Plan 1
Day 1

Topic: Work and Home for Colonial Women

Schedule: 50 Minute Periods / 3 Days

Standards: Few though they may be ☺

- ❖ USI.23 Analyze the rising levels of political participation and the expansion of suffrage in antebellum America.
- ❖ USII.8 Analyze the origins of Progressivism and important Progressive leaders, and summarize the major accomplishments of Progressivism. (H, E)
- ❖ USII.9 Analyze the post-Civil War struggles of African Americans and women to gain basic civil rights. (H)

Lesson Purpose: The purpose of this lesson is to introduce students to the role of women in Colonial America and discuss women and gender stereotypes.

Learning Objectives: Students will be able to:

1. Identify unique concerns for women in the Colonial Era
2. Identify major sociological women's issues
3. Discuss women's life in Colonial America
4. Discuss the role culture and society play on women's roles
5. Appreciate the nature of labor and work in a Colonial home
6. Appreciate the impact of women on the education and raising of the family

Materials:

1. Student Sociology Notebooks
2. Student Sociology Essay Journals
3. Computer
4. Computer Projector

Instruction:

Opener – Picture of the Baby Tender from Memorial Hall Museum Deerfield

- What is this item in this picture?
- What required the mother to restrain the child this way?

Lecture – Give a brief lecture on the dangers in a Colonial home and the amount of work to perform a simple job like making dinner.

- During the lecture, show pictures of a typical colonial home
 - MHM Deerfield Home
- During the lecture, show pictures of household items
 - MHM Butter Churn
- During the lecture, show pictures of a heart
 - MHM Fireplace

Group Activity – Break the class into groups of four. Each group should attempt to construct a timeline for how long they think a typical woman in a colonial setting would need to finish the following tasks.

- Breakfast – Biscuits and Porridge
- Supper – Soup, Pie
- Laundry
- Feed the Animals
- Sweep
- Tend the Fire
- Spin
- Mending
- Make Butter

Assessment –

1. Timeline - Students will present their timelines for review. The timelines allow the students to grasp the difficulty women in colonial times had in preparing and accomplishing the most basic of family tasks.
2. Journals – Students will write a half page open response to the following question: Describe life for a typical colonial woman. How did technology aid or hamper the work load of a typical colonial woman?

Resources –

1. Memorial Hall Museum website
2. Classroom Textbook