

Lesson Plan 2: The Human Impact

by Caralyn Bingham

Grade Level(s)

This lesson is designed for grade 4-6 advanced/high ability learners. This lesson will take three 45-to-60-minute sessions.

Lesson Overview

Students will examine the impact of natural disasters on humans through a variety of media. They will be asked to make inferences concerning the needs of various communities that have experienced disaster. This lesson allows for an opportunity for students to interview an emergency responder or CERT individual in their area.

Learning Objectives

Students will read, annotate, and analyze primary and secondary source documents or media on natural disasters, OR students will read, annotate, and analyze a fictional scene of a natural disaster. (Use Paul's Reasoning Model and Empathy Chart.)

Students will engage in appropriate conversation in an interview with an Emergency/CERT team or individual. They will listen, take notes, and provide questions for the interview.

Standards

English Language Arts Standards: College and Career Ready: Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL1 - Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

CSS.ELA-Literacy. SL. 5.1A – Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information know about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy. SL. 5.1B – Follow agreed upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.

CCSS ELA-Literacy SL5.1C – Pose and respond to specific questions by making comments that contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others.

CCSS ELA-Literacy SL 5.1 D – Review the key ideas expressed and draw conclusions in light of information and knowledge gained from the discussion.

Preparation

List what needs to be prepared for the day's lesson plan activities

Materials and Resources

- Media related to natural disasters
- Kagan question dice or chips
- Sandra Kaplan Depth and Complexity chart (1 per group)
- Paper for recording responses

Activity 1: Disaster in the Media (45-50 minutes)

Read an article or view a video clip about a natural disaster. Using guided note taking and annotation strategies, discuss the article or clip. After completing, put students in the same cooperative groups as before. Using "Think, Write, Round Robin," give the students 5-7 minutes to answer the following question: In what ways are human lives affected by disasters? Make sure they are answering with short phrases or single sentences. While the students are sharing with their group, ask them to put a check next to answers that have already been given and add new and unique responses to their list.

Activity 2: Questions for First Responders (45-60 minutes)

Use the Kagan question dice or chips for this activity. You will need one pair of dice or chips per group. Each student will need their own paper and pencil because they will be writing a question for each roll of the dice. The students will use the Round Robin structure. Student A will roll the dice, and all the students will write one question about the topic using both words that were rolled. The dice will then move to student B and so on. You can use this structure to formulate as many questions as desired.

Example question: How might a natural disaster impact our water supplies?

Optional extension: After each group has gone around fully, the students can roll the dice and add an element from Sandra Kaplan's Depth and Complexity. Other than that, the process is the same. (Example question: How might patterns of human behavior be predicted in natural disasters?)

After completing, each student will evaluate their questions and choose the best two to use for the interview or panel discussion in the next activity.

All questions will be handed in.

Activity 3: Interview or Panel Discussion (45-60 minutes)

Invite a first responder team or individual, or CERT-trained individual, for the students to interview using the questions that they created during Activity 2. You can have one student take an audio recording of the interview so the students can return to it later if needed. Each student will take notes on the question they ask and record any follow-up questions.

Each cooperative group will complete an empathy map.

Troubleshooting

Finding emergency responders may be difficult. Plan well in advance for this.

Assessment

The note taking sheets, interview questions, and group interactions will be used as the assessment.