



GEOGRAPHIC STUDY OF HERBS THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA

Level: middle - high school / grades 7-12
Course: science or social studies

Rationale

Note to the teacher: I have found no useful literature that discusses the regions where specific herbs grow in Latin America. Most of the literature in print focuses on how herbs are used to cure specific illnesses. Nevertheless, I am interested in this lesson plan to learn where herbs grow and to investigate the range of growth of herbs in Latin America.

This lesson plan can provide information about the climates and environment conditions that herbs need to grow successfully. It can lead to further investigations on how the people of those specific regions came to learn about the medicinal values of those plants.

This lesson plan requires the use of Internet. I would recommend that the teacher become familiar with the integrating of telecommunications projects into the curriculum before beginning this activity. It is best if the teacher has an account with an international network such the International Education and Resource Network (I*EARN). The teacher must have a computer, a modem and a dedicated phone line.

Activity: Posting a project idea on the Internet

This is an excellent activity for introducing students to the power of Internet. The Internet can be used as vehicle for gathering information that otherwise would be very difficult to come by.

by
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Students will begin to see how telecommunications project can be developed and then implemented for useful investigations.

Objectives

1. Students will be able to describe in writing the power of Internet and how a telecommunications project can generate information more efficiently and quicker.
2. Students will obtain information about the geographic locations where herbs grow. This information can be used to begin other investigations.

Procedures

1. The teacher must introduce Internet and provide background information on how it works. The teacher must introduce telecommunications and explain the concept behind the Information Superhighway.
2. The teacher must demonstrate in class how to make an on-line connection with an Internet service provider.
3. As a whole class, the students will develop a project outline. The Project Outline Form at the end of the procedures is one that can be replicated or modified.
4. The teacher will demonstrate to the class how to upload the project onto the conference board.
5. The teacher and students will monitor the conference board on a daily basis.
6. The teacher and students will compile any new information on a database.
7. Using a wall map, the students will mark geographic sites where specific herbs grow.

Follow-up Activities

1. Students can make comparisons of cultural uses of herbs by region, climates, or environmental conditions.
2. Students can investigate why herbs grow in certain regions of Latin America based on geographic conditions.

Project Outline Form

use to post the project on an Internet Discussion List

Project title: *Geographic Study of Herbs throughout Latin America*

1. Project idea: Herbs are used throughout Latin America for many uses. Herbs can be used for cooking, for fragrances, for medicinal purposes, for decorations and for many other things. In this project, we would like study where herbs grow. We would like to build a database that would allows us to study the geographic regions where herbs grow in the wild. We would like to be able to appreciate the diversity of geographic regions and would also like to investigate how cultures from each region are similar in their uses of herbs.

2. Grade and age level: middle and high school grades; ages 12-18
3. The project can be used to enrich the science curriculum in the study of botany. The study of herbs can be integrated in a botany lesson plan and can be used to make connections between plants and geography.
4. The proposed starting date can be_____.
5. The proposed ending date can be_____.
6. Expected outcomes/products: The final project will be to make a publication of the geographic locations of herbs in Latin America and how they are used by the cultures in those regions.
7. We hope to educate ourselves and the participants about the regions where herbs grow in Latin America and how they are used by the people.
8. This project is open to individuals or entire classes.
9. We would like a multitude of schools from Latin America to respond. The more input we receive, the better our investigation and study.
10. The username of this project is: westmesa (this username is on the I*EARN account)
11. The contact person is: Teacher name, school name and address, e-mail address

Bibliography

See lesson plan "Finding Out about Herbs in Latin America" for bibliographic references.