

Sample Lesson Plan for Fourth Grade

Level: Fourth Grade

Goal: Social Studies Competency Goal 4

Objective: 4.05 Identify and assess the role of prominent persons in North Carolina, past and present.

Materials: A sheet of notebook paper for each student; “History Beneath Our Feet” website projected for all students to see and/or use

Procedure:

1. Say: Just think for a minute: Who are some of the persons important to the history of our city of Durham? Can you name one, maybe two, or three?
2. Say: Now think of the names of the streets in Durham----streets in your neighborhood, those you travel to school or activities, streets where your friends live. On your paper make a list of all of those streets.
3. Ask: Do any of those street names sound like last names of persons? With a partner, circle all of the street names that might be last names, like Watts and Mangum.
4. Explain: Cities often name streets, parks, schools, and buildings as ways to honor the work of specific persons. The names of these important Durhamites are all around you, often right beneath your feet.
5. Project website on screen, or have each student go to the website: www.museumofdurhamhistory.org/beneathourfeet
6. Direct the students to the interactive map of the home page.
7. Say: These streets hold interesting stories of the past, and today we are going to find out about one or two of those stories. If you can find one of the streets you circled on your list, click on the name. If not, click on any street name that sounds familiar to you.
8. Give time for students to explore the map.
9. Ask for a volunteer to share what he/she has learned about one of the streets and the person for whom it was named.

10.Say: Click on at least five of the street names, and choose one person whom you would like to study in more detail.

Followup:

This could be the beginning of a short research project.

This could also be used as a part of a persuasive speaking project. Each student would research an important person and then explain why this person deserved a street to be named in his/her honor. (reasons and facts to support each reason)