

Social Studies Lesson Two

What Causes Pollution?

Objectives: After the presentation of this lesson students will be able to:

1. identify how and why water becomes polluted.
2. work cooperatively to identify factors that cause water pollution.

NEVADA CIVICS STANDARD 1

NEVADA HISTORY STANDARD 2

Materials: library resources, current local newspaper, current magazines, Internet access

Time: One class period

Procedures:

1. The instructor will begin class period with a brainstorming activity. Students will be asked to highlight the main points learned from the previous day's activity about pollution.
2. The instructor will limit the theme of "pollution" through a class discussion. The following questions can be used:
 - a. Does Nevada have a problem with pollution?
 - b. Is Nevada the only state with a pollution problem?
 - c. How does the amount of pollution in Nevada directly affect each one of us?
 - d. Can we do anything to reduce pollution and its effect on Southern Nevada?
 - e. What causes pollution?
 - f. What are the different types of pollution?
 - g. Has there ever been a need to regulate pollution? How is this regulation accomplished?
 - h. Who determines what regulation is needed?
 - i. Nevada citizens are dependent upon an economic resource because we live in a desert state. What are we dependent upon?
 - j. How will pollution of our water source affect Southern Nevada?

Throughout class discussion, the instructor may choose to list student responses in a graphic organizer, such as a sunshine wheel, so the students can participate orally and visually.

Extension Activity: (This activity can be completed within the class or at home.) Have students return to their original groups formed the previous day (or work independently at home). Students will utilize library resources, magazines, newspaper articles or the Internet to seek information about regulation of water quality. (Possible Internet site <http://www.uswaternews.com>)