"Big City Culture with Small City Charm"
Table of Contents

Lesson Plan………………………… Jenn Dopp
Guidebook for Travelers…………… Andrea Hall
Team Bibliography…………………. The Berets
Lesson Plan

Overview: Students will research different professions and trades from the city of Hudson today and learn how the growth of the city has added to the Hudson River Valley. They will put on a performance at the Hudson Opera House for friends, family, and the community and tell “Henry Hudson” how the city has grown since 1609. As “Hudson” and his crew walk down Warren Street, the students will highlight the main parade route stops from the 1909 tercentenary and discuss how the economy has grown into what it is today.

Grade Level: Can be adapted for almost any grade based on the number of roles, depth of research, and complexity of dialogue.

Time: Set completion and design will have to be in the works or completed ahead of time, but actual research and preparation time depends on the depth of research and the number of parts involved.

Lesson Objective:
- Students will collaborate in groups and as a class to determine how Hudson’s voyage up the Hudson River to their home town impacted businesses.
- Students will learn how their particular role influences society today and how their particular job affects the economy of Hudson specifically.
Lesson Plan

Standards:
- Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in the history of the United States and New York.
- Students will gather and organize information about the traditions transmitted by various groups living in their neighborhood and community.
- Students will distinguish between near and distant past and interpret simple time lines.
- Students will know the roots of American culture, its development from many different traditions, and the ways many people from a variety of groups and backgrounds played a role in creating it.

Learning Styles: Learning styles include visual/spatial, bodily/kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal and linguistic.

Multicultural Component: Through research about Hudson’s voyage, students will learn about Dutch explorers and the customs and cultures of the Dutch.

Classroom Materials:
- Set & Materials (Cardboard, Wood, Paint, etc.)
- Costumes
- Assorted research materials
Lesson Plan

Procedure:
- The class will be divided into groups of two to three students and assigned roles based on Hudson’s current economic systems and establishments.
- The class will tour Hudson. Students will ask someone who has their role, such as an antique shop owner, how their trade helps the economy of Hudson. They will also ask how their business came to be as it is today in Hudson.
- Students will research their particular roles and decide what is most important about their trade.
- With help from teachers and volunteers the class will design a set of Warren Street.
- Students will practice their parts as “Henry Hudson” and his crew walk down Warren Street to see how far the town has come. They will tell “Hudson” how the city has changed and how his voyage helped shape the Hudson River Valley in their area. Hudson will stop at a number of important spots to get an idea of how life has changed in Hudson since 1609.

Summary and Evaluation: Through discussion afterwards, the class will discuss how the performance and how students felt about being a part of their own city’s history. They will assess how the city has grown over the last four hundred years and how much Hudson has grown in the last century alone. A small reflection paper to assess the differences between today’s economy and the economy of 1909 and earlier will then be completed.
The Site: The Robert Jenkins House and Museum is a Federal style home filled with whaling lore and military artifacts. It is an excellent stop for those who would like to see the history of the city of Hudson.

Site History: The Hendrick Hudson Chapter, NSDAR was organized in 1895, at the home of Margaret Collier. On May 1, 1896, the charter was received. A Chapter Building Fund then was started to provide a permanent home. When Mrs. Frances Chester White Hartley, Charter Member #686 of NSDAR, learned of the project she purchased and then presented the Robert Jenkins House to the chapter. The house was built in 1811 by Robert Jenkins, the son a Proprietor of the City of Hudson, who served as the third and fifth Mayor of the city. Mrs. Hartley was a granddaughter of Robert Jenkins and was born in the house. The Chapter House was presented by Mrs. Hartley on May 15, 1900, with a requirement to maintain a library and a museum.

To Visit: Open July-August on Sunday & Monday, 1-3, or by appointment.
Hudson-Athens Lighthouse
Hudson River
Between Hudson and Athens
(518) 822 1014

The Site: In 1967 Governor Rockefeller established the Hudson River Valley Commission to explore uses for Hudson River Lighthouses. The Commission recommended that the Coast Guard deed over or lease the facilities to not-for-profit groups. These groups would then rehabilitate and operate the facilities for the public. It wasn't until 1982 that a local group attempted to follow the plan of the Commission. At that time a group of citizens from Columbia and Greene Counties formed the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society. The Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society is a not-for-profit organization established to maintain, preserve and restore the lighthouse. This organization was established to provide a way to become actively involved in the preservation of the lighthouse and the development of a museum. Today, the lighthouse beacon remains the responsibility of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Site History: In the late 1880’s, hazards created by the Middle Ground Flats opposite the City of Hudson made navigation of the Hudson extremely risky for ships. After much petitioning to Congress, a survey was completed and an appropriation of $35,000 was approved in 1872 to build the Hudson City Lighthouse now known as the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse. Construction was begun in early 1873, and the lighthouse was put into operation on November 14, 1874. The facility served as a manned lighthouse until the 1950s when the lighthouse was automated and a named facility was no longer needed. Today, the lighthouse still serves to aid navigation, guiding ships around the Middle Ground Flats.

To visit: Tours on the second Saturday of the month July-October. Reservations needed.
The Site: Named for a fortress treasure-house in ancient Persia, Olana was the home of Frederic Edwin Church, a major figure in the Hudson River School of landscape painting and a student of Thomas Cole. Built on a hill near Hudson, New York between 1870 and 1891, Olana offers magnificent sweeping vistas of the Catskill Mountains, the Hudson River and the Taconic Hills. Today, Olana is a New York State Historic Site, a National Historic Landmark, and one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Hudson Valley and upstate New York. Called by Church "the Center of the World," Olana's Persian style house and 250 acres of picturesque grounds are a masterpiece as grand as any of his paintings. The Olana State Historic Site includes the house, grounds, and a museum store.

To Visit: The grounds are open 8am-sunset year round. Maps are available at the Visitors Center. Tours available November-March, Friday-Sunday: 11am-4pm. April-October, Tuesday-Sunday and official Monday holidays: 10am-4pm. Fees: $7 Adults, $5 Seniors and students (with ID), Children 12 and under are free.
The Site: The FASNY Museum of Firefighting has a rich history. At the 51st State Firemen's Convention held in Hudson in 1923, a resolution stated that if the State Association of the Firemen's Home would erect a museum building, four fire engines, one built in England in 1725, a Gooseneck more than one hundred years old, a piano-style engine 63 years old and a double-deck engine, would all be donated. The Museum was built with a center hall 49 feet long with two adjoining wings 24 feet long, amounting to 2600 square feet of museum space. On the morning of November 12, 1925, six large trucks brought the valuable collection up from New York City. The Museum was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1926. The first addition to the building was added in 1957 with more space added in 1972, 1989, and 2000 to total over 50,000 square feet. Today, the museum contains one of the largest collections of firefighting equipment and memorabilia in the world. Much of the artwork was in the original gift by the Exempt Volunteer Firefighters of New York City. One featured artist, Joseph Johnson, did many fire department portraits in addition to being an Assistant Fire Chief under Boss Tweed. His work is very evident in the collection, including a rescue scene showing Chief William Tweed in action.

To visit: The Museum is open year round 10am-5pm. Admission and parking are free. The Gift Shop carries 180 items and is open from 10:00am - 5:00pm. The Museum is closed on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.
The city of Hudson set out to celebrate its tercentennial in grand fashion; under the direction of an Executive Committee, the $1.25 million endeavor manifested itself as a week-long celebration of Henry Hudson’s river voyage ("Planning to Honor Hudson and Fulton" 1 and Hall 997). The celebration was intended to be mainly an educational event, aiming for townspeople to enjoy the festivities while learning. Admission to the celebration was free, and advertisements of any nature were prohibited ("1909 Hudson-Fulton Celebration" 1). Security was tightened, with extra officers added to the police force; churches were opened and served as resting places for tired party-goers, and doctors were on call in case of emergency (Hall 998).

The tercentennial honored the discovery of the Hudson River Valley and the town of Hudson. This celebration allowed New Yorkers and Hudson natives to celebrate their own history. Through parades and events put on during the week, the committee aimed to raise the American sentiment in townspeople and encourage them to learn more about their heritage ("1909 Hudson-Fulton Celebration" 1). The tercentennial was not solely an American endeavor; international friendships were promoted as well, with partnerships occurring across the Atlantic (1). The celebration also allowed the city to promote the assimilation of others; with so much information at hand, residents of Hudson were encouraged to learn as much as they could about their city and country to best grasp the culture of their home (1).

Central to the celebration was the arrival of the Steamboat Clermont and Half Moon replicas to the Hudson (Hall 1000). Dutch engineers recreated the Half Moon while the Staten Island Ship Company rebuilt the North River Steamboat of Clermont, Robert Fulton’s steamship ("Planning to Honor Hudson and Fulton" 1). The events ran from Sunday, October 3rd through Saturday, October 9th; the week started off with a religious observance in which over two thousand people attended, with a thousand more turned away. The following day was a field day, with children having a day off from school and instead parading two by two with American flags in hand, singing songs. Tuesday was an intermission before visitors began arriving on Wednesday; carnivals and barges with floats captivated audiences before Thursday’s arrival of the Clermont and the Half Moon. Concerts, memorials, and banquets completed the day before the ships departed for Albany on Friday. A fireworks display on Saturday evening, drew Hudson’s tercentennial celebration to a close (Hall 998-1014).


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Bibliography and Helpful Websites


Wendy McDaris, Personal Interview, 10 Mar. 2008

Additional Website Links

www.cityofhudson.org - Links to Hudson, NY Webpage

http://fasnyfiremuseum.com/ - FASNY Fire Museum of Firefighting in Hudson, NY

http://bestcountryroads.com/ - Columbia County Tourism


http://hudsonantiques.net/ - Antique dealers on Warren St