

El mundo Hispano: A Curriculum Plan and Teaching Guide

Introduction

This web curriculum is designed to give Spanish high school teachers and students in Georgia a tool to use to address Georgia Performance Standard MLI.CCC1, “The students use information acquired in the study of the target language and information acquired in other subject areas to reinforce one another”. The curriculum web focuses on the question, “How can I connect what I have learned in other subjects to enhance my knowledge of the Spanish Language and Hispanic culture?”

Curriculum Standards

MLI.CCC1 The students use information acquired in the study of the target language and information acquired in other subject areas to reinforce one another.

The students:

- A. Demonstrate knowledge of geographical locations and identify major countries, cities, and geographical features of the places where the target language is spoken.
- B. Apply previously learned skills from other subjects, when appropriate to demonstrate knowledge in the target language (e.g. using basic math skills).
- C. Identify examples of vocabulary, phrases, proverbs, and symbols from the target language that are used in other subjects.
- D. Relate content from other subject areas to topics discussed in the language class, such as the influence of explorers and settlers on various regions of the United States.

Aim/Purpose Statement

This curriculum web is designed to help High School Spanish Students in a Spanish one class connect skills and knowledge they have learned in other subject areas and apply them to the study of Spanish language and Hispanic culture.

Rationale

“To have another language is to possess another soul.” Charlemagne

Modern technology has influenced our world in ways no one could have imagined 40 years ago. With the use of the internet in our daily lives, all parts of the world are becoming more accessible and connected. Learning a foreign language helps students gain a knowledge of the world they live in, become more marketable, and it can even help students improve important test scores like SATs! Learning a foreign may also allow students opportunities they wouldn't have had otherwise to travel or study in other countries. Students who study a foreign language can also use that language in the study of other subjects.

By connecting foreign language to other subjects, students will learn how studying a foreign language can help them improve their scholastic abilities. In addition, students can learn about the world they live in, because as they move out of school and into the workforce, they will be able to use their knowledge of Spanish Language and culture to travel, conduct business, or simply connect with new groups of people.

General Educational Goals

This curriculum web is designed by a High School Spanish Teacher, who teaches grades 9-12 in Georgia. The course it is developed for is Spanish One.

The official course description for Spanish I:

Spanish I introduces the Spanish language; emphasizes listening, speaking, reading and writing skills; covers how to greet and take leave of someone, to ask and respond to basic questions, to speak and read within a range of carefully selected topics and to develop an understanding of Spanish culture.

This curriculum web will address a specific Level I standard for Modern languages in Georgia. It will:

- a) provide opportunities to show individual students' creativity
- b) familiarize students with vocabulary and grammar structures used when traveling in Spanish speaking countries
- c) give students opportunities to practice for real world experiences, such as traveling to another country, or exchanging money to a different currency.
- d) familiarize students with geographical features and locations of Spanish speaking countries.

It is my belief that everyone can benefit from learning a foreign language. Studying other languages opens worlds up to students, and gives students the opportunity to become familiar with how others live around the world. When you learn about other cultures, it helps to examine the one you live in as well.

Subject Matter Description

The web curriculum will be a subject matter curriculum that focuses on the question; How can I connect what I have learned in other subjects to enhance my knowledge of the Spanish Language and Hispanic culture? The major topics in this web curriculum will be: Social Studies, Language Arts, Math, and Science. The subtopics in the web curriculum will be: Social Studies-geography, culture; Language Arts-grammar, literature; Math- currency and exchange rates, systems of measurement; Science-the Environment and Ecology.

Learner Description

The activities in this web are designed for High School students in grades 9-12, ages 14-18. The students have been studying Spanish for approximately 12 weeks, and are in a first level Spanish I class. Most of the students had no experience with learning another language before this class. The majority of students in the class are motivated to learn Spanish, however some are reluctant and are taking the course simply to fulfill the language requirement for graduation. All students are familiar with using a computer, internet, and Microsoft office suite.

Prerequisites

Before the students begin this web curriculum, they will know: how to look at and read a map, how to read and write, how to identify parts of a sentence in Spanish, how to read and comprehend brief passages in Spanish, how to count, how to use a ruler, how to perform basic research using the internet, and how to use a word processor.

The majority of the students will be motivated to learn and use Spanish. Students are capable of working independently or with small groups. Students will have to monitor their time and manage projects individually, with the teacher providing incentives built into the task grades to encourage students to stay on task and to ensure students produce a quality final product. If any particular student does not have any of the aforementioned skills, accommodations such as working individually, giving extra time, individual tutoring, or others will be provided as necessary.

Learning Objectives

Identify the geographical locations of different regions and countries of South America, as well as countries of Central America, Mexico, and Spain.
Explore cultures of various Spanish Speaking Countries.
Explore classical literature from Spain and South America.
Understand differences in currency.
Discuss exchange rates and how they work.
Explore the metric system vs the standard system of measurement
Use the web to conduct research and complete activities.
Use the computer to create visuals for presentations.
Discuss various habitats and wildlife in Spanish Speaking countries. Specifically, explore the wide variations of habitat and climate in Spanish speaking countries.

Materials

- Computers
- Printers
- Software (MS Office Suite)
- access to the internet
- paper

- pencils
- texts
- readings about countries (on web or from text)
- vocabulary lists
- notes/skills needed to perform skits (grammar elements)
- interactive games to practice country locations and capitals (on web)
- poster board (possibly)
- markers, crayons, various art supplies
- quizzes/assessments

Instructional Plan

Differentiation of this curriculum web will be accomplished by using various activities and methods to implement the curriculum web such as:

- Choice of assignment
- Group Work and Individual Work
- Interactivity within the website and in provided links to activities

Group work will be an important strategy to complete several activities in the curriculum web. It will give students the opportunities to work together to complete more complicated tasks and have overall more in depth final products. Even though group work strategies will be implored throughout various activities in the curriculum web, it is important to hold each group member accountable for their contribution to the group.

Learning Activities

- Complete Web Quests
- Compile lists of information about various countries
- Use the computer to create visuals for presentations.
- Play interactive games on topics to practice learning objectives.
- Read passages and respond to them.
- Perform skits about Culturally acceptable behaviors (such as greetings customs)
- Draw/Research Climates
- Play with the exchange rate calculator
- List and compare prices of foods here and in Spanish Speaking Countries
- Research and make authentic foods from Spanish speaking countries

Basic outline of Curriculum Web and Learning Activities:

1. Mexico y El Norte

Topic 1: Currency: Los EEUU y Mexico

Activities: Currency Calculator

Global Grocery Project

Topic 2: What do you call a Spanish speaker?

Activity: Hispanic vs. Latino: Read and respond

2. Espana

Topic 1: Which is the only country in Europe that speaks Spanish?

Activity: Currency: El Euro y El dolar; Global Grocery Project

Topic 2: Spanish Literature

Activity: Don Quijote: Read selected sections and respond

3. South America

Topic 1: Which South American countries speak Spanish?

Activities: Interactive Web Activities: (interactive map/quiz game)

Topic 2: Los Paises Andinos

Activity: Webquest

Topic 2: El Cono Sur

Activity: Webquest

4. America Central

Topic 1: Which Central American countries speak Spanish?

Activity: Interactive Web Activities: (map/quiz game)

Topic 2: What are the climates in Central America?

Activity: The Rainforest: Research the rainforest and create a drawing/diorama/presentation

Assessment Plan

There will be various types of assessments throughout the curriculum web, including:

- Quizzes/Tests
- Rubrics
- self-evaluations

Evaluation Plan

To evaluate this curriculum web, I am going to field test the site with an entire class of Spanish I students in the Fall of 2010.

Contact Information

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Bibliography

<http://www.uwyo.edu/fled/documents/FLAnnotatedBibliography.pdf> (information about improved SAT scores after studying a foreign language)
<https://www.georgiastandards.org/standards/pages/BrowseStandards/ModernLanguageLatin.aspx> (GPS for modern languages)

Lonley Planet.com

Wikipedia.org

Global Grocery List at <http://landmark-project.com/ggl/>

Exchange rate calculator at <http://www.x-rates.com/>

CIA world factbook at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

Interactive Games and Grapics at

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/South_and_Central_American_Geography.htm

<http://www.purposegames.com/game/spanish-speaking-countries-quiz>