

Lesson Plan featuring Digital Commonwealth Content
A Web Quest of Watertown, Mass.

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School: Watertown High School, Watertown, Mass.

Grade of students that the lesson is designed for: 10

Brief Description: The creation of a Community Walk of historic markers in Watertown, Mass.

Instructional objectives:

Students will:

- develop web evaluation skills
- understand that history is all around us
- obtain an overview of Massachusetts history and Watertown history
- understand the passage of time, and continuity
- develop mapping skills
- develop computer skills

Curriculum Standards:

NCSS 1.2 Time, Continuity and Change

NCSS 1.3 People, Places and Environment

Concepts and Skills: 3 Interpret and construct time lines

USI and USII: An overview of American history

Digital Commonwealth primary sources used:

The Watertown Monuments and Historic Markers Collection

Link: <https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/collections/commonwealth:rv042w06d>

[Link checked 12/2015]

Additional material and resources used:

- This project must be completed in the computer lab.
- Internet access is required.

Summary of Lesson:

Students will complete a Website Evaluation of the Digital Commonwealth website, and use the Watertown Historical Markers and Monuments page within the Watertown link on the Digital Commonwealth website.

Students will complete a Web Quest on the website and create a walking tour of historic sites and markers in Watertown through the Community Walk software.

Vocabulary: **monument, commemorate**

Description and Sequence of learning activities:

This lesson may be completed by students working in pairs or individually

Lesson Period One:

Step One. Website Evaluation. Students are given a short lesson in website evaluation. The first task is to evaluate the Digital Commonwealth website for reliability. Each student must complete a website evaluation form (provided by the teacher) to determine the authenticity and reliability of the web site. The form is to be turned in with the completed project.

Step Two. Explore the Watertown link. In this step, the students must explore the Watertown Historic Markers and Monuments page within the Watertown link on the Digital Commonwealth website.

The students are instructed to complete at least three note cards. On each note card, the student is to identify a historic marker or monument from Watertown. In addition, the student is to identify: (1) the person or event being commemorated (providing details); (2) the date of the event being commemorated, (3) the date of the event, and the street address of the monument or marker. (Students may need to perform additional research to locate the street address for the marker).

The students must complete a total of at least three note cards and at least two centuries must be represented (the monuments and markers span four centuries, from the 1600s through the 1900s).

Students must save the images of the markers as “.jpg” files, for uploading onto the Community Walk web site.

Lesson Period Two:

Step Three: Create a Community Walk. In this step, the students return to the computer lab, each with research note cards. The students are administered a short tutorial in the use of the Community Walk website to create walking tours.

Using the information on their note cards, the students create an individualized Community Walk of Watertown. This entails locating the address of each historic site on the Community Walk map, and entering the descriptive information about the historic marker or monument. As noted, the digital photograph from the Digital Commonwealth website must be saved as “.jpg” files to be imported into the Community Walk.

How this project could be replicated in other schools: As the Digital Commonwealth website grows, with additional links, additional school districts could rely upon it to create Community Walks or other research projects about their towns.

SAMPLE PROJECT:

Here are Three Markers from three different centuries, found on the Watertown link within the Digital Commonwealth web site:

One: A slate Marker Commemorating George Washington passing by this place in 1775 on his way to take command of the Patriot Army; located at the corner of Common and Mount Auburn Streets:



Two: Soldiers Monument, honoring Civil War soldiers, Saltonstall Park, erected in 1889:



Three: Memorial to Justice Benjamin Robbins Curtis, Watertown Square, 1930:



This walk is .75 miles (one way) and can be viewed at:

<http://www.communitywalk.com/map/index/1569476>

Click on each of the three stops on the walk, and the digital photograph and description of the monument pops up.

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