

I. Introduction to “Brass City Life”

Subject(s):

Time Needed: 50 minute class session

Objectives:

- ✓ introduce students to “Brass City Life” website
- ✓ acquaint students with local history
- ✓ develop map reading and navigation skills

Areas/Disciplines Covered:

History (US, local)
Internet Technology [IT] (website navigation)

Materials:

- “Brass City Life” website connected to a **projector** so that the entire class may view it
- chalk and chalkboard or marker and chart paper
- visitor from Mattatuck Museum to answer questions about the website “Brass City Life” [optional]
- homework assignment

Procedure:

1. Begin by introducing the unit. This unit will be about the experiences and histories of Waterbury and its residents. To help you as a class navigate that history will be “Brass City Life,” a web-exhibit that offers research and oral histories to explain the history of Waterbury. Ask the students, “Why do you think that the museum named the website ‘Brass City Life’? Why ‘Brass City’?” Then ask them, “What is an exhibit? How do you get an exhibit on the internet?”

2. Project the site on the screen. Begin to navigate the site for the students. Read the introduction page of the site as a way to begin discussion. From there, show them the neighborhood selections, the large map of Waterbury (1899), and the picture pages. What do they think they might learn from the map section? The photograph section? What do they think they may see in the photographs that will tell them about Waterbury history? What might they learn in the neighborhood section? Do they think that they will enjoy looking at the neighborhoods as they were years ago? Will it be interesting to see how the city map from a hundred years ago is different from the Waterbury that they know today? Will it be fun to look at old pictures and see the different clothes that people wore long ago? What on the site surprises them?

3. From the home page, click on ‘explore neighborhoods via map’ in the top right hand corner. One goal of this lesson is to familiarize the students with maps and navigation; use this map on the website to highlight that for the students. Take them to a couple of spots on the website.

4. On the board, draw a compass. Allow the students to tell you about the compass by asking them: What is this? What is it used for? From there, briefly test their

directional skills by asking questions like: If I point this way, what direction is it? Put it back in the context of the website by asking (while the neighborhoods map is projected): Is Town Plot east or west of Brooklyn? Is North Square north or south of Crownbrook? Continue the activity by asking the students to name their neighborhoods. Take two and develop a compass question from those examples.

5. After you've showed the students some of the features of the website, allow them to dictate where you go next on the site. Ask them to shout out their neighborhoods and take them to it on the site. Show them some of the more interesting pieces (quotes and/or pictures). They may also read some of the quotes aloud.

6. Give them the opportunity to ask questions of the site. Take notice of what they are interested in investigating as this may dictate your unit's focus. You may want to ask someone from Mattatuck to visit your class to answer some of the questions as well.

7. Describe to them that in this unit you will be investigating Waterbury history and culture through neighborhoods and the website will be your primary research tool. You may want to briefly mention some of the upcoming activities and lessons.

8. Tell them that one of their goals for this unit is to become acquainted with Waterbury neighborhoods. This assignment will help them to do that. Hand out the homework assignment along with a due date.

HOMEWORK: This assignment is a 'getting-to-know' the website worksheet. Since some students may not have internet access at home, allow the students a couple of days (and possibly some in-class time) to finish the assignment. Because the questions are broken down by neighborhood and include 5-6 questions each, you may want to assign each one separately. It can then be used throughout the unit to reintegrate the website into class activities.

Related Resources:

Resources in multi-cultural education as well as teaching on race and immigration can be found at: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/newamericans/foreducators.html>

Background information for teachers:

Fishkin, Joseph and Priscilla Canny and Douglas J. Hall. "Immigration in Connecticut," in *Connecticut Voices for Children* (December 2004). www.ctkidslink.org

Vocabulary List

exhibit: a public display of information in the form of objects, texts, or sound.

neighborhood: the people living near one another.

website: a group of World Wide Web (www) pages linked together around a common theme, idea or institution.

Introduction to “Brass City Life” Worksheet

Q&A: These questions come with simple answers that can be drawn from information found in pictures and text on the website “Brass City Life”. For example:

Q: How many families settled Waterbury in the 17th Century?

A: 40

Questions by neighborhood,

Brooklyn/Town Plot:

Q: Name the brewery in Brooklyn.

A: _____

Q: What church does Michael Colucci talk about in Brooklyn?

A: _____

Q: On the right side of the page for Town Plot is a picture of animals.
What kind of animals are they?

A: _____

Q: Do you have any animals? If so, what kind?

A: _____

Q: Is Town Plot east or west of Brooklyn?

A: _____

Q: Under the Brooklyn heading “Flood and Renewal” is a wedding picture at the Lithuanian Club. When was the wedding?

A: _____

Overlook/Hillside:

Q: Is Overlook north or south of Hillside?

A: _____

Q: When was Alice E. Kingsbury’s novel, *In Old Waterbury*, published?

A: _____

Q: If you wrote a book about Waterbury, what would it be called?

A: _____

Q: Which college came to Waterbury in the middle of the 20th Century?

A: _____

Q: In Overlook, what was the name of the market on Fulton St.?

A: _____

Q: What did Donald Liebeskind do during the winter on Fulton Pond?

A: _____

Crownbrook/North Square:

Q: Is North Square north or south of Crownbrook?

A: _____

Q: On the Introduction page, what is said to be Dr. Donahue's occupation?

A: _____

Q: In the picture of the Amber Crust Delivery Truck, how many children are standing on the truck?

A: _____

Q: In the 1930 picture of Crownbrook, what are Caesar and Tony Biolo playing?

A: _____

Q: What sports do you participate in during your free time?

A: _____

Q: In the urban renewal of the 1970s, who was the newest group to move into North Square?

A: _____

Q: How many Waterbury youth are standing outside of Pride Model Cities in the picture?

A: _____

Bunker Hill:

Q: In the 18th Century, what was Bunker Hill named after?

A: _____

Q: What did most people do for a living in Bunker Hill in the 19th Century?

A: _____

Q: On the Bunker Hill: Commercial page, what is the holiday being celebrated by the family in the picture?

A: _____

Q: What is the biggest holiday celebration in your family?

A: _____

Q: On the Bunker Hill: Residential Development page, what holiday did the neighborhood celebrate with a parade?

A: _____

Q: On the pictures page, what are the women on Newton Hill doing in the snow?

A: _____

South End:

Q: Where did William Coss's great-grandfather come to Waterbury from?

A: _____

Q: Where are your great-grandparents from?

A: _____

Q: On the 'South End: Neighborhoods' page, on what street is Washington School located?

A: _____

Q: What do the signs in the windows at Richard B. Lewis's Store on Main St. say that they sell?

A: _____

Q: What major interstate road came through South End in 1967?

A: _____

Q: What year was the flood that covered most of S. Main St.?

A: _____

Introduction to “Brass City Life” Worksheet

KEY

Q&A: These questions come with simple answers that can be drawn from information found in pictures and text on the website, “Brass City Life”. For example:

Q: How many families settled Waterbury in the 17th Century?

A: 40

This is a great way to encourage them to use the website for research and information purposes.

Questions by neighborhood,

Brooklyn/Town Plot:

Q: Name the brewery in Brooklyn.

A: Hellmann and Kipp

Q: What church does Michael Colucci talk about in Brooklyn?

A: St. Patrick’s Church

Q: On the right side of the page for Town Plot is a picture of animals.
What kind of animals are they?

A: cattle (cows)

Q: Is Town Plot east or west of Brooklyn?

A: west

Q: Under the Brooklyn heading “Flood and Renewal” is a wedding picture at the Lithuanian Club. When was the wedding?

A: 1990

Overlook/Hillside:

Q: Is Overlook north or south of Hillside?

A: north

Q: When was Alice E. Kingsbury’s novel, *In Old Waterbury*, published?

A: 1942

Q: Which college came to Waterbury in the middle of the 20th Century?

A: the University of Connecticut (Waterbury)

Q: In Overlook, what was the name of the market on Fulton St.?

A: Fulton Market

Q: What did Donald Liebeskind do during the winter on Fulton Pond?

A: ice skate

Crownbrook/North Square:

Q: Is North Square north or south of Crownbrook?

A: south

Q: On the Introduction page, what is said to be Dr. Donahue's occupation?

A: dentist

Q: In the picture of the Amber Crust Delivery Truck, how many children are standing on the truck?

A: 6

Q: In the 1930 picture of Crownbrook, what are Caesar and Tony Biolo playing?

A: bocce ball

Q: In the urban renewal of the 1970s, who was the newest group to move into North Square?

A: Hispanics

Q: How many Waterbury youth are standing outside of Pride Model Cities in the picture?

A: 10

Bunker Hill:

Q: In the 18th Century, what was Bunker Hill named after?

A: a Revolutionary War battle

Q: What did most people do for a living in Bunker Hill in the 19th Century?

A: farm(ed) (were farmers, farming)

Q: On the Bunker Hill: Commercial page, what is the holiday being celebrated by the family in the picture?

A: Thanksgiving

Q: On the Bunker Hill: Residential Development page, what holiday did the neighborhood celebrate with a parade?

A: 4th of July

Q: On the pictures page, what are the women on Newton Hill doing in the snow?

A: skiing

South End:

Q: Where did William Coss's great-grandfather come to Waterbury from?

A: Ireland

Q: On the South End: Neighborhoods page, on what street is Washington School located?

A: Baldwin St.

Q: What do the signs in the windows at Richard B. Lewis's Store on Main St. say that they sell?

A: root beer

Q: What major interstate road came through South End in 1967?

A: I-84

Q: What year was the flood that covered most of S. Main St.?

A: 1955