

Great Seal of Mississippi Lesson Plan
8th Grade U.S. History
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Mississippi Social Studies Framework Objective 6: Understand the purposes and principles embodied in the ideals and values of American society.

Mississippi Visual and Performing Arts Framework Objectives:

- 1b Understand the difference between two and three-dimensional media.
- 2b. Demonstrate increased proficiency in using elements and principles of design in a composition based on a feeling or idea.
- 4d. Use expanded visual arts vocabulary to make judgements while creating and studying works of art.
- 5. Begin to use critical processes in the examination of works of art and design through reading, writing, and speaking. (CA)
- 11. Recognize the importance of integrating visual arts concepts and skills in other subject areas for use in everyday life. (C)
 - a. Know ways that visual arts concepts and skills are integrated with other subjects.

Mississippi English/Language Arts Framework Objective:

- 3f. The student will compose texts a variety of modes based on inquiry and research.
 - 1) Generate questions.
 - 2) Locate sources (e.g., books, interviews, Internet, reference materials, on-line data bases) and gather relevant information from multiple sources.
 - 3) Take notes on important information from sources.
 - 4) Synthesize and evaluate important findings and select sources to support central ideas, concepts, and themes.
 - 5) Present the results using a variety of communication techniques.
 - 6) Reflect on and evaluate the process.

- 1. Students will study the Seal of the United States as it relates to symbolism of the American identity. Students will identify the major symbols.
- 2. Students will compare the seal of the United States to the Great Seal of Mississippi. Students will identify similarities (eagle, arrows, olive branch, shield) and identify differences (the motto of the U.S., position of the eagle wings, wording of the Mississippi seal).
- 3. After identifying the major symbols and the similarities and differences, using the internet students will research what the symbols for both the U.S. and the Mississippi seal mean and compare.
- 4. Students will be divided into groups to research an aspect of Mississippi.
 - a. Important places in Mississippi
 - b. Important people from Mississippi
 - c. Agricultural products of Mississippi
 - d. Native flora/fauna to Mississippi
- 5. After researching, students will come back together to brainstorm how this research can be used to embellish the seal to reflect an overall view of the state of Mississippi.
- 6. Students will work to recreate the Great Seal of Mississippi embellishing the seal based on the research completed.