

Lesson Plan

Benny's Flag

Developed by:

Laura Wright – 2016 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

Discipline / Subject:

Language Arts, Social Studies, and Math

Topic:

Historical Fiction Genre, state symbols and history, and fractions and decimals

Grade Level:

3rd grade and 4th grade

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

Benny's Flag by Phyllis Krasilovsky

The website "State Symbols USA" to investigate state symbols:

<http://www.statesymbolsusa.org>

100's chart for flags

Fraction / decimal conversion sheet

The website for the Alaska Historical Society:

<http://alaskahistoricalsociety.org/discover-alaska/kids-page/benny-benson-an-alaska-kid-who-made-history/>

Maritime Flags website and their meanings:

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/flags/signal-meaning.html>

Fraction Flags website for the warm-up:

<http://resources.oswego.org/games/fractionflags/fractionflags.html>

Lesson Summary:

The class will investigate the different flags and symbols of the state of Alaska and their own state. The teacher will read Benny's Flag and research Benny Benson's life. Students will create their own flags using a 100's grid chart and then show the fraction and decimal representations for each color.

Standards Addressed:**Common Core State Standards - CCSS**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7

Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting)

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.NF.A.1

Understand a fraction $1/b$ as the quantity formed by 1 part when a whole is partitioned into b equal parts; understand a fraction a/b as the quantity formed by a parts of size $1/b$.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1

Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.2

Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3

Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.4.NF.C.6

Use decimal notation for fractions with denominators 10 or 100. *For example, rewrite 0.62 as 62/100; describe a length as 0.62 meters; locate 0.62 on a number line diagram.*

Learning Objectives:

1. Compare and contrast the state symbols
2. Analyze specific aspects of the text's illustrations and how they contribute to what is conveyed by the words in the story from the book, Benny's Flag
3. Create a flag by coloring in a 100's grid chart and then find the fraction and decimal representation of each color
4. Use decimal notation for fractions with denominators 10 or 100.

Assessment:

1. The fraction / decimal sheet should have each color represented from their 100's grid chart paper flag
2. The fraction and decimal representations are correct
3. The fractional parts add up to 100

Procedural Activities

1. First, students will explore the website “State Symbols USA” and compare and contrast the various symbols of each state.
2. They will compare and contrast Alaska symbols to their own state symbols.
3. The teacher will then direct students to compare the state flags together. Discuss the differences and the history of the state flags. Note that the Alaska flag is the only state flag designed by a child.
4. The teacher will read the book Benny’s Flag by Phyllis Krasilovsky. Students will analyze the illustrations and compare them to the words in the story.
5. Students will analyze the character traits of Benny Benson based upon the story.
6. The teacher will encourage a group discussion about the book and then share the digital photos of Benny Benson from the Alaska Historical Society.
7. The teacher will tell the class that they will create a flag as well, but it will be using a 100’s grid chart and will be designed using fractional and decimal representations.
8. Share examples of maritime flags online because of their mathematical, geometric nature.
9. Practice making a group digital fraction flag using the site “Fraction Flags” online as a whole group activity.
10. Hand out the 100’s chart and markers, crayons, or colored pencils
11. When finished, give students the fraction/decimal worksheet, and ask them to count each color they used, and represent that color as a fraction and then a decimal on the sheet.

Materials Students Need:

The 100’s chart paper

The fraction and decimal worksheet

Coloring materials such as crayons or markers

Optional: tablets or laptops

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

Computer or tablet

Smartboard or document camera

The website "State Symbols USA" to investigate state symbols:

<http://www.statesymbolsusa.org>

The website for the Alaska Historical Society for Benny Benson's information:

<http://alaskahistoricalsociety.org/discover-alaska/kids-page/benny-benson-an-alaska-kid-who-made-history/>

Maritime Flags website and their meanings:

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/flags/signal-meaning.html>

Fraction Flags website for the warm-up:

<http://resources.oswego.org/games/fractionflags/fractionflags.html>

Other Information:

Create a class art gallery and put the pictures in frames or on a bulletin board for viewing

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:**Modified:**

Create the Fraction Flag together. The teacher can write the fraction portion, and then the student can write the decimal portion.

Enrichment:

Tape ten 100's grids together to create a 1,000's grid. Create a giant flag on the 1,000's chart. What would the fractions and decimals be for each color?

Create a new state or country from your flag. Write a story about this new place in a journal.

Research Benny Benson and his life and create a biography report to share.

Additional Information:

Email the Alaska Historical Society for permission first before posting images from their site.