**Choice Lesson**

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**Date Created: 4/5/13**

**Subject(s): World History**

**Topic or Unit of Study (Title): Decline of Rome**

**Grade Level: 9th**

***Materials:*** paper, writing utensil, textbook

**Summary (*and Rationale*):** The Roman civilization was one of the most important in the history of Europe and the World. It is important to understand not only where it originated from and its accomplishments, but why it lost its great power.

**I. Focus and Review (Establish Prior Knowledge):** In our last few classes we have learned about the origins of the Roman Republic as well as the Empire. However, like all mountains they have a climb a peak and they all have a decline. Today we are going to talk about the final years of the Roman Empire. Why it declined, where it went, who was involved etc.? These are important questions to think about to understand [5 min]

**II. Statement of Instructional Objective(s) *and Assessments*:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Objectives** | **Assessments** |
| -Students will understand the factors that led to the decline and ultimate collapse of the Roman Empire and as a class compile at least 8 causes. | -Students will each be expected to participate once throughout the Cause and Effect activity. - Students will also be able to answer 3 out of 4 homework questions correctly. |

State the objective: [1 min]

Assessment: [57 min]

**III. Teacher Input (Present tasks, information and guidance):**

I will explain the cause and effect activity to the students so they know what they need to prepare for in the next part of class. Then the students will spend 20 min reading the section in their text book and an article printed from the BBC and take notes on what they think will be important for the cause and effect activity, also this will give them practice reading actively. (Heather) [25 min]

**IV. Guided Practice (Elicit performance):**

Cause and Effect Activity

On the whiteboard I will draw up a graphic organizer that has room for various causes, i.e. limited gold supply led to inflation which in turn hurt the economy which contributed to the decline and fall. Students will work backward from the effect, the fall of the Empire, to identify other causes and their responses will be shared with the class to compile a large list. Each student will be responsible for drawing the graphic organizer in their notes and filling it in with the class.

After completing the cause and effect activity the students will extrapolate the events that they discussed in class to predict future events. Each student will have about 5 min to write up a couple of things that they think might have followed the decline of the empire using any prior knowledge and educated guesses, i.e. what happened to the people, what kind of civilization came after etc., and then share with the class. See example of chart on last page. [57 min]

***V.* Closure (Plan for maintenance):**

On the way out the door the students will each have to show me their graphic organizer and predictions to make sure that everyone to make sure that everyone was taking notes. [3 min]

***VI.* Independent Practice:**

For homework the students will answer questions 3-5 & 7 from p. 176 in their textbook to reinforce the material covered in the class activity and turn them in the following class. [N/A]

**STANDARDS:**

**WH.H.2.2**

Analyze the governments of ancient civilizations in terms of their development, structure and function within various societies (e.g., theocracy, democracy, oligarchy, tyranny, aristocracy, etc.).

**WH.H.2.4**

Analyze the rise and spread of various empires in terms of influence, achievements and lasting impact (e.g., Mongol, Mughal, Ottoman, Ming, Mesoamerica, Inca, Imperial states in Africa, etc.).

**HS.SI.1.3**

Evaluate content for relevance to the assigned task.

**Plans for Individual Differences:**

Students have the opportunity to read, write their answers, speak aloud to the class, and use graphic organizers which provides a variety of methods for kids to use to learn the material.

**References (APA style):**

Heather, Peter. (2011). “The Fall of Rome.” *BBC*. Retrieved April 21, 2013 from

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/fallofrome_article_01.shtml>

Sample Cause and Effect Activity chart to be drawn on the whiteboard

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Causes** | **Effect** | **Educated Guesses of Future Effects** |
| - limited gold supply led to inflation which in turn hurt the economy-student example-student example | -The decline and fall of the Roman Empire | -the Eastern half continued as an empire -student example-student example |