

Madonna of the Trail and the National Road

Purpose: To introduce students to historic roads and trails leading to Indiana, running through Indiana, and beyond.

Grade Level: 4

National Geography Standards: 1, 9, 12, 17

Indiana Social Studies Standards: 4.3.2; 4.3.8; 4.3.10; 4.4.2 (extension)

Materials Needed:

- Indiana Atlas – Historic map
- Blank Indiana county black line map master
- Blank United States map with state borders black line master
- Copies of both maps for each student
- Colored pencils
- Pencil
- Transparency of each black line map and one showing the location of the National Road
- Background information of the Madonna of the Trail (see websites)
- United States road atlas (several for students to share)
- Madonna of the Trails Calendar – OPTIONAL! (To obtain a calendar, contact the state Daughters of the American Revolution office...<http://www.ipfw.edu/ipfwhist/historgs/indar.htm>)

Objectives:

Students should...

1. have background knowledge of Indiana counties
2. be able to follow directions
3. be able to locate the route of the National Road in Indiana
4. locate the twelve states where the Madonna of the Trail monuments are located

Procedures:

Part I

1. Introduce the students to the historical map in the Indiana Atlas.
2. Give the students background information on the National Road.
3. Show transparency of the National Road
4. Distribute blank Indiana county map to each student.
5. Instruct the students to draw the route of the National Road on the map as it passes through the state using their pencil.

6. Next, have the students to color the counties in which the road passes.
7. Conclude part I by discussing the importance of this road and its impact to the state and nationally

Part II

1. Show the students a picture of the Madonna of the Trail monument from the calendar or web site.
2. Explain the history and significance of the monuments.
3. List the twelve states where the monument is located on the board or transparency.
4. Have students brainstorm possible locations of the monument in the state of Indiana and why.
5. Reveal to the students Richmond as the location and why it was selected by the DAR.
6. Distribute blank United States maps to each student.
7. Have the students use an atlas to color the twelve states where the Madonna of the Trail monuments is located using a different color for each state.
8. Using their pencil, have the students mark the approximate location of the each monument is each state.

Evaluation:

Completed maps and discussion participation.

Related Websites:

<http://www.owu.edu/~deschul/trails/national/notr.html>

Major cities located along the National Road

<http://www.baxtercountyonline.com/arkdar/madonna.htm>

Background information of the Madonna of the Trail

<http://www.route40.net/history/madonnas/introduction.shtml>

Background info and a GREAT map of the location of the monuments

<http://www.route40.net/index.shtml>

Information about US 40

<http://www.connerprairie.org/historyonline/ntlroad.html> (very good)

The making of the National Road by the historian at Conner Prairie

<http://www.dar-csc.org/csDarprojects.html>

More information concerning the Madonna of the Trail

<http://www.ipfw.edu/ipfwhist/indiana/madonna.htm>

Indiana's Madonna of the Trail monument website

Extensions:

- Discuss Indiana's state motto: "Crossroads of America". Why is this motto used and how does it relate to the National Road.
- Trace the National Road throughout the entire country.
- Discuss various historic trails such as ... Santa Fe, California, Oregon, Wilderness, etc.