Carson Fuchs

**Solar Lesson Plan**

**Age Level: 3rd Grade**

**Subject(s) Area: Social Studies: Geography**

**Materials Needed:**

**Internet Connection/Projector**

**Antarctica PowerPoint : TPT Resource**

**Continent Journals**

**S**tandards**:**

**3.5.2** Identify the seven continents, four oceans, and major nations of the world (i.e., United States, Canada, Mexico; e.g., China, Brazil, Russia)

**O**bjectives**:**

* **Students will model characteristics of Antarctica including major landforms and animals through drawing and labeling in their Continent Journals with 80% accuracy.**

**L**earning Activities:

**Technology:** Penguin Cam – Live from https://www.kansascityzoo.org/animal-cams/penguin-cam/

**Required Vocabulary:** Antarctica, glacier, iceberg, penguin, seal, South Pole

**Opening Element:** Students have been learning the 7 Continents over the past few weeks. I will begin the lesson by going over the prior 5 continents they’ve learned. (N. America, S. America, Africa, Europe) “Which continents are we missing?” I will then show the students a Live Penguin Feed. “Based on this video, what continent do you think we’re learning about next?”

**Reflective Questions:** Why do you think there aren’t many animals in Antarctica? Why do you think no one lives there? Why do you think the animals in Antarctica have thick coats? Why is it difficult to travel to Antarctica?

**Instructional Methods:**

* Whole Group: Students will be gathered at the back of the classroom. I will distribute Continent Journals prior)
* I will conduct a KWL chart with students on the white board– “What do you know about Antarctica? What do you want to know?” (approx. 10 min)
* I will go through the Antarctica PowerPoint. (TPT Resource)
* Following the presentation, I will quickly move on to the “L” of the KWL Chart: “What did we learn?” (5 min.)
* Time permitting, we will quickly visit our “W” questions, “Did we find any of the answers to our questions?” (Students will have the opportunity to ask for further questions and clarifications here)
* Students will be dismissed back to their desks to work on Continent Journals
* I will either draw or pull up map of Antarctica for student reference.
* I will remind students of their Continent Journal Instructions: Page 1: Include KWL chart completed as a class. Page 2: Draw the shape of the continent as well as draw animals found on the continent. Label each.
  + Extension: Students draw landforms and label.
* I will give students time to work.
* After observational assessment (if students struggle, or want visuals), I may give students permission to take out their computer to find images for reference.

**Wrap-Up:**

* **I will go over what we’ve learned about Antarctica. Time permitting, I may pull up Penguin Cam again, as we will be learning about penguins in other lessons.**
* **I will transition students into their Rotations.**

**A**ssessment:

**Formative:**

Students will accurately model Antarctica map, animals, & KWL in Continent Journal.

**Summative:**

Continent Journals will be assessed by Rubric at completion

Students will model characteristics of the Seven Continents, with expertise in one, measured by their informational paper.

Reflection:

**I felt that this lesson went very well. We began the day with this lesson. Students have been familiar with learning about new continents and were excited to learn about a new one. This lesson had a ton of transitioning throughout the room and this class is very used to working this way. They are excellent with transitions. I wonder if it would be as effective in other classrooms, as students had a lot of room for distractions. However, it broke up the lesson in a good way for this group. Mrs. Ward and I changed certain elements of the lesson plan just before teaching. She switches up the expectations of the journals for each continent, so instead of having me require students to draw a map and label it, they recorded our finished KWL chart in their books. In the future, I would have to do an individualized Rubric for each continent.**

**I was very impressed with students’ knowledge of their “K” and they even contributed information that I had not known prior. Our students are always teaching us as often as we teach them. They also came up with great questions for their “W”. I would have liked to spend more time with the “W” questions and asking students to really reflect on what they know about other continents and how that influences their questions about Antarctica.**

**We experienced a technical difficulty with the PowerPoint, which is my absolute lesson low point. We had prepared the PowerPoint in advance, but the computer fell asleep while Mrs. Ward happened to be out of the room to retrieve materials for the next lesson. We had to wait for her to be back to continue. The students were awesome, and I prompted them with questions and opportunity to share. (One students’ grandparents visited Antarctica in November). In the future, I would have the password available to me to prevent this kind of situation.**

**Similar to the “W”, I would have liked to have spent more in the “L” section. Students did well with answering, but I would have liked to spend more time prompting them. They also did the L portion from their desks in order to be able to write them. I think they may have been more willing to discuss had they been on the floor in front of the chart.**

**Mrs. Hager gave me an important note regarding expectations for the journals. Students had not previously recorded KWL charts for their continent, and I would in the future spend more time with the expectations of that. It may have also been helpful for them to take neat notes during the PowerPoint to help the “L” portion go smoother.**

**A final change we made to the schedule was doing the Penguin Cam at the end instead of the beginning as an “eye-catcher”. Instead, we pulled it up at the end. This worked well, as students were able to watch the cam once they finished their journals instead. This particular group was able to keep working despite the distraction of the Penguin Cam, which is fantastic for them. Not every class would be able to do that.**