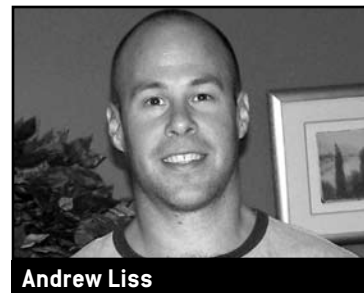


Creating a PowerPoint Presentation

Hernando de Soto's Quest

If you're looking for an inspired way to use *JS* in the classroom, check out this page. Teacher to Teacher is a place for experienced teachers and other professionals to share their ideas, suggestions, and lesson plans on a range of topics covered in the magazine. This lesson plan about Hernando de Soto (*see play, pp. 18-21*) comes from Andrew Liss, a 12-year classroom veteran. He teaches seventh-grade social studies at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Edison, New Jersey.



Andrew Liss

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW LISS

Lesson time frame: will vary, depending on resources and students; five to eight days is suggested.

OBJECTIVES

1. Understand basic concepts about conquistadors by discussing desired qualities and reading the play aloud.
2. Demonstrate mastery of research and PowerPoint skills by using books, periodicals, the Internet, and other sources to create a PowerPoint slideshow.
3. Evaluate Hernando de Soto's achievements and methods of conquest by creating a virtual report card.
4. Exhibit public-speaking skills and knowledge of historical content by presenting a slideshow.

INTRODUCING THE TOPIC

Distribute the play. Ask a student to read the definition of *conquistador* aloud (*see "Words to Know," p. 19*). Then have the class brainstorm words and/or phrases that describe characteristics that a conquistador would have. (*Chalk Talk*: Allow students five minutes to write words, questions, and ideas related to the topic you place on the board. No talking, only writing.)

PROCEDURE

1. Discuss students' ideas about conquistadors.
2. Have students read the play aloud.
3. Assign specific research topics.
4. Review instructions for creating a PowerPoint presentation.
5. Have students create a slideshow using our outline at right. (You may want to have them describe

events from a Native American perspective to teach empathy and the ability to look at complex issues from multiple perspectives.)

6. Present slideshows to class or post on Internet.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

To get started, see the "Web Links" box on p. T-3. The following sites may also be helpful:

- bartleby.com/65/de/DeSoto-H.html
- infoplease.com/biography/var/hernandodesoto.html

OUTLINE FOR POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Students should use no more than four bits of information per slide. However, slides may be split into two or more per topic. Use clip art or other audio-visual files (such as video).

Slide #1: Introductory Slide

- Hernando de Soto's name, birth/death dates, and portrait; name(s) of student(s)

Slide #2: Governor of Cuba

- How de Soto attained his office

Slide #3: Attacks on Florida

- Details about de Soto's explorations in Florida

Slide #4: Further Explorations

- Other de Soto travels and adventures

Slides #5 and 6: Your Choice

- Interesting and/or humorous details about de Soto

Slide #7: Report Card

- Grade the explorer on both his accomplishments and his behavior. Consider how his discovery changed the world. Keep in mind how he treated others. Then explain why you gave the grades you did.