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Lesson Plan for 1st/2nd grade

Exploring Our Geographic and Economic Community

Previous to this lesson, students will have explored their own home and school neighborhood and discussed people's contributions (through paid and volunteer work) in those areas, and the impact that has had on the students' lives.

Concept

The petroleum industry is a vital part the students' lives and community.

Objective

Students will be able to list three ways that the petroleum industry has impacted their lives.

Materials Needed

Prepared graph, graph board, maps of Taft and other areas

Discussion

What kinds of jobs have we talked about in our neighborhood? (We'll look at graph we made of how many gas stations, hospitals, stores, etc.).

We've also talked about our parents jobs; raise your hand if your parent, or someone you know, works with wild animals; on a fishing boat; in an aircraft factory; in the oil business.

We see that no one knows anyone who works with wild animals, on a fishing boat, or in an airplane factory (if someone does, we can discuss where that person lives and why they would find that kind work in that location). A lot of you either have parents who work in the oil business, or know someone who does, though. What does that say about the importance of that job? Why would we find more oil related jobs in our area than, say, fishing jobs?

We're going to make another class graph, this time showing how many of you have family members working in the oil industry. We'll use this as our math lesson: How many girls/boys are listed? What if Sarah 's dad left to work elsewhere? What if two new students joined our class and both had parents in the industry? Etc.

To find out more about oil in our community, we're going to go on a field trip to the West Kern Oil Museum.

After the field trip, I expect students to have learned that oil has been in the ground for a long time, that the Yokut Indians used it frequently for many reasons, that Taft was founded because of the oil here, and that petroleum products are found in a great deal of items. I also expect them to have a general idea of how oil is formed, and why it is found in areas like ours.

Extension Activities

We could further explore by having guest speakers and having students write about what it was like for early Taftians discovering oil fields. We also could learn about energy, what energy is, other sources, its uses, and its importance.