

General Agriculture

Post It! Agricultural Posters

Visual Arts

Materials

Digital camera(s)
Computer(s) with graphics program (Adobe PhotoShop or Paint Shop Pro)
Internet for researching KS or area counties
Color printers (or access to Kinko's)
12" x 18" paper

Overview

Knowledge is power. In this lesson, students will create informational posters on an agricultural topic of their choice using visual arts techniques and technology. These posters can then be displayed in the classroom, in the school hallways or during a special school event, such as Game Night or the Spring Musical. See examples of posters at the end of this lesson plan.

Objectives

1. Students will gain understanding over creating informational posters.
2. Students will recognize the unique contributions various farmers and scientists have made to a agricultural history.
3. Students will recognize the important contributions local agriculture has made to their everyday lives.
5. Students will apply digital applications to a variety of pictures.
6. Students will use filters and effects for photos and text.
7. Students will experiment with color choices for visuals.
8. Students will research and find numerous facts relating to poster topics.

Instructional Format

1. Share activity instructions with the students
2. Upon completing the lesson, students will positively critique each other's work, and posters will be printed for display.

Procedures

1. Each student should choose a farm-related topic or business. As a class, brainstorm ideas - write the ideas on the board for the class to see. Further, check the yellow-pages of a phone book or online to see what agricultural avenues are available around your area or state-wide.

Grade Level: 7-12

Time: 2-3 class periods

Standards:

Visual Arts

1.1.3

1.1.5

1.2.3

1.3.3

1.5.3

1.6.4

Post It!

2. If students have their own digital cameras, encourage them to take photos that relate to their chosen topics. It may also be helpful to provide students with a folder on area pictures for their use; however, don't violate copyright by using pictures off the Internet without permission.
3. Have students decide what might make a good poster background: plants, fields, seeds, machinery, a landscape view, etc. Place the chosen image on a 12" x 18" file.
4. Encourage students to try at least three PhotoShop filters or blending modes to tone the background down.
5. Encourage students to display at least three other photos on top of the background. Have students arrange them so that additional information about the photos can be displayed alongside them.
6. Using the Internet, instruct students to research relevant and informative agricultural information about their topic.
7. Have students use text in a font, size, and color that is easily read; do not use over three font styles.
8. Encourage students to apply blending modes such as drop shadows and glowing or beveled edges on either text or photos so they are more noticeable.
9. Student may want to add an additional picture, so that the poster represents Kansas—a small sunflower image or logo.

Assessment

Have student positively critique each other's work. Students should make comments about their usefulness in giving the public adequate information relating to the chosen topic. For example, if a student chose "Wheat", has he given correct statements? Is the information positive? Is it well-crafted or distracting? Students could argue their cases about what may or may not be the correct information. Students should make the necessary changes before the posters are printed in a large format size.

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