Lesson Plan (Journey Topic)  BIBLICAL BEGINNINGS

The focus of this lesson plan is to acquaint the students with the biblical beginnings in the countries of Iraq and Israel.

Grade Levels: 6    Curriculum Design:
I. Geographic Settings of Iraq and Israel – in early biblical times and present setting.
   - Illustrate a map to include: water, land, and pertinent cities.
   - Include countries that boarder Iraq and Israel (early biblical times and present)

II. Research Israel – brief essay (250 words), using the assigned web-sites.
   Include in your essay: Covenant, Abraham, Ur, King Nebuchadnezzar

III. Research Iraq – brief essay (250 words), using the assigned web-sites.
   Include in your essay: Hammurabi, Hammurabi Code, Mesopotamia, The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Search Topics/Keywords
Abraham, Covenant, Ur, King Nebuchadnezzar, Hammurabi, Hammurabi Code, The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Mesopotamia, Jewish, Islam, Christianity

Outcome:
Students will be able to answer the following questions:
   Students will be able to locate the countries of Iraq and Israel and neighboring regions.
   Students will be able to identify key words that are relevant to biblical times.
   Students will have a basic understanding of the religious beliefs of the people and the
   Students will be able to identify the key words in the glossary terms.

Students will acquire knowledge about and answer the following (content-based lesson)
   - Who are the neighboring countries that boarder Iraq and Israel? Can you locate them on a map or globe?
   - Name the rivers that flow in Mesopotamia. What significance do they have?
   - How are the concepts of the Hammurabi Code similar to our civil law? Give examples.
   - How are the Islamic, Jewish and Christian faith similar and different?

Content: To gather information on this topic, will visit the following web sites (minimum of five sites)

History of Iraq and its people
focusonjerusalem.com/tiemofjabostrouble.html

History of Iraq and culture from Noah to present
www.achilles.net/~sal/iraq_history.html

Experiencing the world’s religions glossary
Highered, mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0767420438/student_viewU/chapter8/glossary.html

Daily Bible Study - King Nebuchadnezzar
www.execulink.com/~wblank/nebuch.html

The Kingdom of Israel
www.tfsd.k12.id.us /ol/student20% Pages/9nth%20Grade/Ancient%20Mesopotamia/thekingd.html
Assignment/Evaluation:

Directions: The following procedure will provide cooperative learning techniques

The students will receive a copy of the Internet/Web Quest Topic paper (modified) as an opening exercise to visit the assigned sites in order to become familiar with the task at hand. They will describe briefly what they discovered and share findings with the class. This will be done with a brain storm activity.

In the Curriculum Design, there are four specific assignments. Each assignment section will have six students in the group. The students will draw a number that will place them in the group assignment. Time will be provided for the students to exchange their assignment with another student if they wish. Once the groups have been established, the students will complete the task at hand.

Students will be given about a week to complete the project. They will come together with their small group and share what they have learned. Then the each group will share with the large group (the class). An evaluation paper (still being formed) will be given to each student to evaluate the process and the assignment they have completed.

It is my hope that the students will gain some information, whereby continued discussion on the current events that are taking place today in the countries of Iraq and Israel. May it stimulate an understanding of the biblical beginnings of our faith, and the present day workings of the "Spirit."