Lesson #6 – Irish Immigrant on Aquidneck Island/The Building of Fort Adams

Subject Area: Social Studies, Math, and Art

Grade: 4/5

Time Frame: 2-3/ 45-minute lessons

Objectives: By this lesson, the students will be exposed to the impact of the Irish immigrants on Aquidneck Island and their important role in constructing Fort Adams.

Standards: IV

Materials:

- Video of Irish history on Aquidneck Island
- Irish American Heritage pamphlets
- Materials (from home) to build group forts
- Criteria Sheet

Learner Factors: Auditory learners will benefit from the Irish History video. The kinesthetic learners will benefit from the building of a fort.

Motivational Activity: The class will watch the Irish History. They will discuss the possible impact of the Irish on Aquidneck Island. The teacher will lead a discussion in the Irish leaving because of the potato famine in Ireland and the opportunity for a better life in America. The prospect of a job building the fort was an opportunity for the Irish to leave their homeland.

Lesson Development: The students will be separated into groups to build their own fort. They will have to decide as a group the following:

- What will the fort be built out of?
- Will it be in a tree, near the water or on a hillside?
- Will it have a lot of windows or just a few?
- Will there be flags and what kinds?
- Will there be cannons or just guns?
• Who will live/work in the fort?
• How will the workers get to the fort?
• Will you have a secret password to get into the fort?

After the group has made their decisions they may begin the building of the fort.
(Materials are to be brought in from home).

**Closure:** Each group will show their fort and describe how their fort will defend against the enemy. As a whole class, the teacher will lead a discussion on what they learned from this and how the Irish might have felt building the huge and strong Fort Adams.

**Follow-Up:** In the next lesson, the students will learn how to research and write a given research project.

**Extended Activities:**
• Field trip to Fort Adam State Park and the Eisenhower House, at the park.
• After the field trip, answer the questions (Enclosed).

**Student Assessment:** The enclosed rubric will be used to assess the students.
## Activity Evaluation Form

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**COMMENTS:**
## Activity Evaluation Form

**Knowledge of Content**
- You have a lot of information. Shows that you did extra research. The details that you selected support the main idea.
- You have used enough important information. You have shown enough research. The details are correct and support the main idea.
- Some of the information you used has nothing to do with your project. Showed some research, but not much. The main idea was only supported by few details.
- You have shown little or no use of information. You have shown little or no research. Your main idea was not supported by detail.

**Organization**
- Very well organized. The way you set up your project is easy to follow, it explains and points out the main ideas.
- Good organization. You focused on the main ideas.
- Some what organized, but some ideas were not presented clearly.
- Your set up is confusing. Several key ideas were missing.

**Mechanics**
- The spelling, labeling and dates are all perfect.
- You just have a few spelling, labeling, or date errors.
- There are some errors in spelling, dates and labeling.
- Many errors in spelling. Labeling or dates.

**Presentation**
- You have told the information in an excellent way. It seems that you understand your audience.
- Clear and nice looking. No clutter or mess. You have shown that you somewhat know your audience.
- Your information can be understood but your project is messy. You do not know your audience.
- This is very messy. Your information can not be understood. You have shown no understanding of your audience.

**Creativity**
- Your project shows that you put a great deal of creative energy into it.
- Somewhat creative and original.
- Some creative touches but you have not shown very much originality.
- You have put very little creativity in this project. Nothing about this shows any originality.

**COMMENTS:**
FORT ADAMS

A wonderful old fort to explore is located at Fort Adams State Park. Named for President John Adams, this structure was constructed between 1824 and 1857. Fort Adams was built to defend the coastline, but there was never a shot fired in war, nor was it ever attacked. The fort is in a beautiful location, surrounded by water on three sides. The views of Jamestown and the Newport Bridge are spectacular. The fort is the site of summer concerts as well as military celebrations. Fort Adams is being restored and there are special tours available during most of the year. Be sure to explore the park around Fort Adams. It has over 130 acres. Visit Eisenhower House, named for the president, now home to the Fort Adams Trust.

Did you learn who designed and built the fort?

Did you see cannon at the fort?

Did you see a jail?

Why was this location a good place to build a fort?

What interesting things did you see at the fort?

What did you like best about the park?
The Union Congregational Church lost some of its members when they chose to form African-American congregations to practice other faiths. One of these was the Shiloh Baptist Church, which held its worship services in the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House from 1864-1869. Religious life has always played a vital role in African-American communities, and this was certainly true in Newport. Paradoxically, many white Newporters professed liberty of conscience while at the same time owning slaves and did not recognize the inconsistency between their beliefs and their actions. It took Newporters several generations to work out those inconsistencies, a problem which many still grapple with today.