

Pennsylvania Sports on Film

by Aaron Hackman

Standards

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| NCSS.1.5.a | ...help learners understand the concepts of role, status, and social class and use them in describing the connections and interactions of individuals, groups, and institutions in society; |
| NCSS.1.5.b | ...help learners analyze group and institutional influences on people, events, and elements of culture in both historical and contemporary settings; |
| PA.SS.CG.5.3.3.H | ___Identify individual interests and explain ways to influence others. |
| PA.SS.CG.5.3.3.J | ___Identify the role of the media in society. |

Resources

Rocky

The movie *Rocky* is an excellent representation of sports in popular culture. *Rocky* tells the story of a Philadelphia boxer and three decades later has become part of the Philadelphia cultural awareness.

Objectives

The main objective of this lesson will be for the students to watch the film *Rocky* and then draw cultural connections to the film, such as the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum being remembered as the steps that Rocky ran up throughout the movies.

The purpose of drawing cultural connections is so that the students are able to see the past and then make connections to their time and understand change.

Rationales

Drawing cultural connections are important as students are able to understand the importance of the past and how it relates the present and the future. The movie *Rocky* best illustrates sports and popular culture and, while the students are watching the movie, the teacher should have them look for cultural connections to the present. Another example of cultural connections that the students should be looking for is symbolism for the bicentennial celebration.

Procedures

This lesson will be very simple in that it involves a quiz and then the students will be watching a movie. The homework assignment will consist of the students writing their thoughts of cultural connections between 1976 and the present day. Some examples of cultural connections that the students should be looking for are:

1. The "Rocky" steps- The steps to the Philadelphia Art Museum are well-known as the steps that Rocky would run up at the end of his run around the city. Also at the Art Museum is a statue of Rocky with his fists in the air. This statue commemorates Rocky Balboa running up the steps of the Art Museum.
2. The commemoration of the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976.
3. Scenes of various Philadelphia landmarks including: Philadelphia Art Museum, City Hall, and The Spectrum

Materials

The materials needed for this lesson is a television or projector connected to a DVD player and a copy of the film *Rocky*.

Assignment

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: After watching the film *Rocky*, what do you think are some of the cultural connections between when the movie was filmed (1976) and today?