

IDEAS for IDAHO DAY

March 4, 2015

- Recognize **IDAHO DAY** in your morning school announcements which might include brief information about the creation of Idaho Territory by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 and the granting of Idaho Statehood in 1890. A short morning video presentation could also be presented featuring interesting Idaho topics, past and present.
- Hold a school assembly on **IDAHO DAY** which might include speakers, a skit, musical numbers or a historic display.
- As a class, visit a state or local historical site or museum on **IDAHO DAY**. You might give your students a list of questions, the answers to which could be found at the museum or historical site.
- Have an **IDAHO DAY** bus tour of important historical sites in the community, with a narrator explaining the importance of each site.
- Give students extra credit if they attend an **IDAHO DAY** program sponsored by a historical society, or some other organization in the community, or if they visit a historical site or museum on their own and write a report about the visit.
- Present a skit in history classes on **IDAHO DAY** which features some Idaho theme, past or present.
- On **IDAHO DAY** set up a “museum for a day” which features historical items loaned by collectors or history buffs in the community, or brought in by students. Each student would identify or explain the significance of his/her artifact.

THE FOLLOWING **IDAHO DAY** ACTIVITIES MIGHT BE GIVEN AS ASSIGNMENTS TO THE ENTIRE CLASS OR TO STUDENTS SEEKING EXTRA CREDIT. IDAHO DAY ASSIGNMENTS MIGHT BE DEVELOPED INTO SENIOR PROJECTS.

- Have students write essays featuring some Idaho topic, past or present. Read some of the best essays on **IDAHO DAY**.
- Students might write reports based on interviews with senior citizens, eighty years of age or older, ideally life-long residents of Idaho. On **IDAHO DAY**, each student might report the highlights of his/her interview. Here are some sample questions for the interview:

How have household appliances and tools changed since the days of your youth?

How did kids dress when you were in junior high and high school? Compare with school dress today. Go into detail.

How have moral standards changed since the days of your youth?

What kind of games did you play as a child? How do those compare with children’s games today?

How have cars changed?



What do you remember about life during World War II or the Vietnam War?

How have the movies and entertainment changed?

How have farming methods changed?

How has the town where you grew up changed?

- Have students create a power point or video about a topic relating to Idaho, past or present. Show the videos on **IDAHO DAY**.
- Students might write a poem about Idaho, with the theme "Romance Lies in Her Name," for example, or a song about Idaho. Present on **IDAHO DAY**.
- Have students take photographs featuring some historical site or famous scenic landmark or natural feature in Idaho. A descriptive paragraph or two should accompany each photo. Photographs can be displayed on **IDAHO DAY**.
- Students may submit a drawing, painting, or sculpture featuring some historical site, famous landmark or natural feature in Idaho, or of an Idaho personality, past or present. Display on **IDAHO DAY**.
- Have students select an elegant writing instrument, such as a fountain pen, rolling writer gel pen, or fine felt tip pen and on nice writing paper, write the words to the Idaho state song in their most beautiful cursive hand writing.
- Students might create a hand crafted map of Idaho, starting with an 11"x17" large blank map of Idaho with just county boundaries, or students could create a beautiful Idaho map with a computer. Fourth grade students might create a salt dough topographical map. Map instructions for junior and senior levels are included on the **IDAHO DAY** website listen below.

Note: for the essay, video, poetry, music, photography, art, cursive handwriting, and map activities, you might consider having a class, school, or district contest with awards being presented to the winning entries in each category. Display the winning entries on **IDAHO DAY**. Get some organization to sponsor the contest. The Bonneville Heritage Association in Idaho Falls is sponsoring such a contest, for example, and awards will be presented to students at an **IDAHO DAY** celebration. Sample contest rules for junior and senior divisions may be found on the **IDAHO DAY** website which will be active on November 1 and added to thereafter.

- Ideas for **IDAHO DAY** activities can be found on these websites:
idahoptv.org/productions/specials/capitaloflight/kids/index.cfm
<http://history.idaho.gov/idaho-day>