

Lesson Plan

Classroom News

Book: *Before the Internet*

Series: What Did We Do?

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice working together to discuss topics and write posts for a classroom news board.

Supplies

- *Before the Internet* book
- Whiteboard
- Bulletin board
- Paper, pens, and other craft supplies
- Index cards

Before the Activity

Read *Before the Internet*, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Today, people use the internet to help with many tasks. Brainstorm as a class some of the ways people use the internet, using the following sample answers as a guide:

- buy and sell things
- check the weather
- get the news
- message friends
- read stories
- share pictures

For the next week, the class will try doing some of these things offline instead. Explain that the class will use the bulletin board to create and post classroom news. Have students work together to brainstorm what information the board will contain and how that information will be displayed. Possible options include the following:

- a box that uses images (a sun, a cloud, etc.) to display the day's weather forecast
- a section listing the homework that is due that day
- a short paragraph describing what the class did yesterday
- a box with a funny or cute picture

Have students raise their hands to vote on which topics and sections the board will include. After choosing the most popular options, guide students through discussing the following topics:

- How many people will work on each section of the board? Will they take turns posting or work as a team?
- What time of day should each section be updated? Will new posts go up before school starts in the morning, at the end of the day, or some other time?

Then, have volunteers sign up to create and post content for the different sections, making sure that each student is involved in helping with one part of the board. For the next five days of class, provide prompting and support to help students remember their assigned tasks and posting times. At the end of the week, pass out one index card to each student. Ask students to write answers to the following questions:

- What was the hardest part about updating the classroom news board? What was the easiest or most fun?

Evaluation

Collect the index cards and give students up to 20 points total:

- 3 points for participating in the group discussions
- 3 points for each of the five days they completed their task for the news board
- 2 points for filling out the index card at the end

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' speaking and listening standards, grade 3 (SL 3.1), and writing standards, grade 3 (W 3.10).