Lesson Plan- Robert Taylor

Subject: World Cultural Geography

Topic: Rivers of the World, Their impact on us and our impact on them

Level: High School grades 9-12

Objective: Understand how rivers have shaped the development of civilization and how our growth and usage has changed them.

Standards: TOPIC: ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY Humans adapt to and modify the environment and shape the landscape through their interaction with the land. This has both positive and negative effects on the environment.

CONTENT STATEMENTS: 3. Human modifications of the physical environment in one place often lead to changes in other places (e.g., construction of a dam provides downstream flood control, construction of a city by-pass reduces commercial activity in the city center, 6. There are costs and benefits of using renewable, nonrenewable, and flow resources (e.g., availability, sustainability, environmental impact, expense). 7. Human interaction with the environment is affected by cultural characteristics (e.g., plowing with oxen or with tractors, development of water resources for industry or recreation, resource conservation or development)

Tasks: On Monday introduce students to major rivers of various continents, Amazon-South America, Mississippi-North America, Yangtse-Asia, Nile-Africa and Danube-Europe. Allow students the next three day’s class time for research and preparation for a powerpoint presentation. Five slides for each river. Students must show geographic information such as river source, major tributaries, major cities and delta location. They need to
show some cultural influence the rivers have had on the region such as music (Blue Danube Waltz) poetry and religious aspects. Finally they need to address environmental impact of human activity on fish populations, pollution levels and engineering influences such as dams. On Friday students will begin presenting their projects to the class.

Materials: Internet access for students

Assessment: Projects will be teacher graded as a summative assignment

Rubric: 20% turned in on time and presented
       60% slides demonstrate geographical, cultural and environmental information
       20% effort and creativity in slide design