

Downwinders in Utah Lesson Plan

7th Grade Utah Studies

UEN Core Standard:

- **UT Standard 4.1:** Students will evaluate the impact of the Cold War on Utah, such as the uranium boom, nuclear testing, nuclear waste storage and disposal, and the MX missile controversy.

Objectives

- Students will use corroboration to analyze sources expressing different viewpoints.
- Students will use evidence to support an argument.
- Students will understand who the downwinders are and the significance of their story.

Materials

- All needed materials can be found on the Downwinders Website. This includes a graphic organizer, infographic, and primary sources.
- The graphic organizer can be printed before class, or students can make a copy of it on their individual devices.

Procedures

- Students will review background information via the infographic on the “Background Information” page on the website. They should already have learned about the Cold War in previous lessons.
- Discuss as a class who the Downwinders are to ensure all class members understand the content.
- Explain the instructions for completing the Graphic Organizer. Open one source as a class and read through it together. Model for students how you analyze the source, stopping frequently to make comments about what you observe as you read, and what it may mean.
- If necessary, model another source for the class. You may also have students work together on the next source and then discuss as a class. Once confident that students understand the process, have them work in groups of 2 - 4 to analyze the rest of the sources and fill out the graphic organizer.
- After analyzing all of the sources students will discuss and answer the questions at the bottom of the graphic organizer.

- Bring the class together for a debriefing session. Have them share their answers and thoughts about the sources. Encourage them to use evidence from the sources to support their argument.

Assessments

- Completion of graphic organizer and questions
- Class discussion

Adaptations/Extensions

- For students who have trouble writing, instead of having them fill out the graphic organizer you might have them highlight the document with different colors for those parts that support the different interpretations. They could also take notes in the margins of the documents. These students will need printed copies of the documents.
- Give students a vocabulary sheet of words in the sources that may be difficult to understand, or modify the documents themselves if needed.