

Adventure in the Holy City: Planning Olivia's Charleston Expedition

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, Olivia will transition from a traveler to a Lead Expedition Planner. She will research the history, geography, and culture of Charleston, South Carolina, to design a comprehensive 5-day itinerary that balances education, adventure, and local flavor.

Learning Objectives

- **Geography & History:** Identify the location of Charleston and explain why it is nicknamed the "Holy City" and its role in the American Civil War.
- **Cultural Literacy:** Describe the significance of the Gullah-Geechee culture and Lowcountry cuisine.
- **Logistics & Math:** Construct a 5-day schedule that accounts for travel time and a set "adventure budget."
- **Communication:** Present a finalized travel pitch using a map and a daily itinerary.

Materials Needed

- A large map of South Carolina or a digital map (Google Earth)
- "Expedition Log" (A notebook or printed planning sheets)
- Internet access for virtual tours and museum research
- Budget Worksheet (Simple spreadsheet or paper)
- Markers, colored pencils, and a poster board (optional)

1. Introduction: The Mystery of the Holy City (Hook)

The Hook: Imagine a city where the streets are made of stones from across the ocean, the houses are painted the colors of rainbow sherbet, and the trees are draped in "ghostly" moss. This is Charleston! But why do people call it the "Holy City"? And why are there giant cannons pointing at the ocean? Today, you aren't just visiting; you are the Boss of the Trip.

Discussion: Ask Olivia: "If you could only pack three things for a trip to a place with beaches, haunted jail cells, and fancy tea gardens, what would they be?"

2. Content & Practice: The Three Pillars of Charleston

Part 1: The "I Do" (Modeling Research)

Teacher/Parent Action: Show Olivia how to categorize interests. Charleston has three main "vibes":

- **History & Mystery:** Fort Sumter (where the Civil War started), pirates, and cobblestone streets.
- **Nature & Water:** The Pineapple Fountain, the South Carolina Aquarium, and Folly Beach.
- **Culture & Treats:** Sweetgrass basket weaving, pralines from a candy shop, and "Lowcountry Boil."

Modeling: Demonstrate how to look up one site (e.g., The Old Exchange & Provost Dungeon) to find its hours, cost, and one "cool fact."

Part 2: The "We Do" (Guided Exploration)

Activity: The Culture Connection. Together, research the **Gullah-Geechee** people.

- Watch a short video on Sweetgrass baskets.
- **Task:** Find one restaurant in Charleston that serves a Gullah-inspired dish (like Hoppin' John or Red Rice). Add this to the "Food List" for the trip.

Part 3: The "You Do" (Independent Planning)

The 5-Day Challenge: Olivia will now build the itinerary. Each day must have a theme:

- **Day 1: The Arrival.** Coastal geography—Walk the Battery and see the Ravenel Bridge.
- **Day 2: Military Might.** Take the ferry to Fort Sumter.
- **Day 3: Wild Wonders.** Visit a nature site (Cypress Gardens or the Angel Oak Tree).
- **Day 4: City Secrets.** A walking tour or the City Market.
- **Day 5: Beach & Reflection.** Relax at Sullivan's Island and write a "postcard from the future."

The Math Moment: Give Olivia a "Daily Snack & Activity Budget" (e.g., \$50/day). She must look up ticket prices and decide if her plan fits the budget!

3. Conclusion: The Grand Pitch

Summary: Olivia will present her 5-day plan. She should highlight one thing she is most excited to see, one thing she wants to eat, and one historical fact she learned.

Recap: Ask Olivia to explain why Charleston is unique compared to where she lives now.

Success Criteria

Olivia has succeeded if she can:

- Show a 5-day itinerary with at least one activity per day.
- Stay within the assigned virtual budget.
- Correctly identify Fort Sumter on a map.
- Explain what a Sweetgrass basket is and who makes them.

Assessment Methods

- **Formative:** Quick checks during research (e.g., "What's the name of that bridge again?").
- **Summative:** The completed "Expedition Log" and the oral presentation of the trip plan.

Differentiation & Adaptability

- **For Struggling Learners:** Provide a "Menu of Options" (pre-printed cards of 10 locations) so Olivia can pick and choose rather than researching from scratch.
- **For Advanced Learners:** Have Olivia calculate the driving mileage and gas cost from home to Charleston, or research the architectural style of "Charleston Single Houses."
- **Multi-Sensory Option:** Make "Benne Wafers" (a traditional Charleston sesame cookie) together to taste the culture!