Vessels on the Great Lakes
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Target Grade: Kindergarten

Subjects: Social Studies and Language Arts

Lesson Overview
This lesson introduces kindergarten students to the many different vessels that use these lakes for work and play. By introducing them to the lakes and the many vessels that use them I hope students will be “hooked” on life in our great state of Michigan.

Sources Consulted
Cliffs Natural Resources Michigan Tour  July, 2012
Soo Locks Tour/ Army Corp. of Engineers/Kevin Sprague July, 2012

Learning Objectives
At the end of these lessons, students will be able to:

1. Retell where the freighter travels.
2. Match vocabulary (type of vessel) to the correct picture.
3. Tell/draw which vessel they like best and give their opinion why.

State Grade Level Content Expectations Addressed

Social Studies

Geography

G1  The World in Spatial Terms
K-G1.0.1 Recognize that maps and globes represent places.
K-G1.0.2 Use environmental directions or positional words to identify locations
G5  Environment and Society

K-G5.0.1 Describe ways people use the environment to meet human needs and wants.

Reading

Word Recognition and Word Study
Vocabulary

R.WS.00.10 Students will in context, determine the meaning of a few words, familiar and repeated phrases including objects, actions, content vocabulary, and literary terms, using strategies and resources including pictures clues, prediction, and other people.

Informational Text

R.IT.00.02 Students will with teacher guidance, discuss informational text pattern including descriptive and sequential.

R.IT.00.03 Students will explain how authors use text features including pictures, illustrations, and icons to enhance the understanding of key ideas presented in descriptive (definitions, enumeration) and sequential (directions, steps, procedure) organizational patterns.

R.IT.00.04 Students will respond to individual and multiple texts by finding evidence, discussing, illustrating, and/or writing to reflect, make meaning, and make connections.

Materials Needed

Large Great Lakes Map
The Boat Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta
I Know Where Freighters Go by Marlene Miller
Variety of pictures of boats
Small foam freighter
Sets of vessel concentration cards (see attached set)
Paper, pencils, crayons

New Vocabulary

- Vessels- refer to the many types of ships and boats that are used on the water for the purpose of transportation of goods and people.
- Freighter- any ship that carries cargo, goods, and materials from one port to another.
- Fishing Boats-a vessel for fishing that usually uses a net to catch fish.
- Tug Boats- a powerful small boat designed to push or pull larger ships.
- Pilot Boats- a boat to carry water pilots to and from a large ship.
• Coast Guard – the branch of our nation’s armed forces that is responsible for coastal defense, protection of life and property at sea, and enforcement of navigation laws.

• Rowboats - a small shallow craft which uses oars to move.

• Speedboats - a fast motorboat that uses an inboard or outboard motor.

• Sailboats - a sailing vessel that has one or more mast to move it.

Focus Questions
- Can you name some things that you have seen on the water?
- What are the names of things you can ride in on the water?
- Do you know where those boats/ ships travel to?
- Have you ever seen a freighter?

Procedure (40 minutes)

Review map of the Great Lakes. Have students name things that they have seen on the water. If they don’t mention boats, ask them what people ride on in the water? Have them brainstorm where these ships and boats might be going.

Introduce the first informational text, *The Boat Alphabet Book*. Do a picture walk. Point out that the author uses pictures and the alphabet to introduce us to the many vessels that are used on the water. Display pictures of ships and boats.

Read the story, stopping to ask questions or make observations to connect students to the text and to the world, if anyone knows what a freighter does? Tell them that they will be hearing another story about a freighter that travels on the Great Lakes.

Introduce second book, *I Know Where the Freighters Go*. On chart paper create a tree map on freighters with four branches (places, jobs, products, other boats). Model comprehension strategies for reading an informational text using teacher think alouds. Stop occasionally to use guided questions so students can add words to the tree map.

After reading introduce students to the vessel concentration game. Introduce each picture with the correct vocabulary word. Demonstrate how the shuffle the 16 cards up, then to lay them face down in 4 rows with four cards. Tell them the object of the game is to find the matching vocabulary word to the correct picture. If they find a match, they get to keep the pair. The person with the most pairs at the end of the game wins. Play several times as a whole group with different students picking pairs. Break up into pairs and play. Teacher will walk around and monitor and assess.
After 10 minutes of playing the game, assembly students back together. Review the 8 vessels that were in the game/books. Allow students to share which of the vessels is their favorite and why. Write students’ responses under each picture. Give each child a piece of paper and have them draw a picture of their favorite vessel, walk around and have them dictate a short sentence about their picture. Collect drawings for class book.

Assessments

Most assessments in these two lessons will be based on teacher’s observation. Listed below are some activities that I will focus my observations on:

✓ Answering guided questions during read alouds.
✓ Playing fairly when working with partners during the concentration game.
✓ Vessel drawing and dictation for class book.
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<th>freighter</th>
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<tr>
<td>tugboat</td>
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<td>Coast Guard boat</td>
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<td>rowboat</td>
<td>speedboat</td>
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