

Grade Level: Grade 8

Subject Areas Addressed: History, Social Studies

South Carolina Education Standards Addressed:

- Standard 8-7:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of South Carolina's economic revitalization during World War II and the latter twentieth century.
- 8-7.2** Provide examples of the expanding role of tourism in South Carolina's economy, including the growth of resorts and development along the coast and the expanding transportation systems that allowed greater access to recreational sites. (H, G, E)
- 8-7.5** Explain the economic impact of twentieth century events on South Carolina, including the opening and closing of military bases, the development of industries, the influx of new citizens, and the expansion of port facilities. (E, H, P, G)

Note to teacher: The following activity covers more standards than the ones listed and can fit with any number of standards, depending upon the focus of the student as they complete the activity. In creating the activity I used the summer and fall 2010 editions of *Sandlapper* magazine, but any single addition can fit with the completion of the activity. My idea was to promote tourism and current industries, but there is certainly a historical component as well that will be obvious as the activity is completed. It forces students to research the entire magazine, make appropriate choices that fit with the assignment, as well as write and think creatively.

The activity is created for group work, but can easily be modified for individual student work. An assessment rubric is included so that students can grade the work of their peers/other groups, and so that you, the teacher, can easily grade the work of your students. This is a fun activity that allows a bit of mystery and science fiction to enter your classroom. Embrace your inner "alien" and have fun with it!

"A Plea for Help" Activity Notes

Asil Yar is an alien from another planet who wishes to visit SC. I generally pretend to receive correspondence from Asil mysteriously through e-mail, although a Facebook request would also fit nicely and perhaps would strike a note with students. Asil Yar is my name, Lisa Ray, backwards. The places within the letter are also local places where I have mixed up or reversed letters. I would suggest that you interject your name, as well as the names of local towns or cities, in some mixed-up form. Students will eventually catch on to your ruse, and will have a great deal of fun looking for clues within your letter. I generally act as if it is the classes' responsibility, as good South Carolinians and citizens of the US, to help Asil. I end the activity, after questions have been answered and the project is complete, with a "thank-you" note from Asil where Asil has asked me, their teacher, to get a treat for students for their help. Students love treats and I end by showing a picture of Asil—a picture from the internet that shows the morphing of a dog and a person. The students find this hilarious and I never show my hand, but act as if I did receive actual correspondence, and that Asil is a real person/creature.

Plea for Help!!!!!!

Dear Earth Beings,

I am Asil Yar from the planet Nipach. I have sent this letter in hopes of learning about this place you call "South Carolina." My planet faces destruction from the evil beings of the planet Omri. My people need a place to escape that we can call home. We know nothing, however, about this place you live. Because of the urgency of the situation I have asked your teacher, (teacher name here), to develop a series of questions that will better explain to my people facts about your distant home. (Teacher name here) will contact me once you have answered our questions. As I fear time grows short for my people and planet, I am asking that you put your best effort in working fast and accurately.

My people thank you! I will be in contact.

Your friend from a distant star,

Asil Yar

Assignment

Listed below you will find categories that will help Asil Yar learn about South Carolina. Use *Sandlapper* magazine as your “tour guide” and resource to complete the activity. Remember your goal is to inform Asil about South Carolina, as well as persuade Asil that our state would be a good place to settle. Your work will be accessed by other students, as well as your teacher, so aim to be accurate, thorough, and creative. Your answers may help to bring a new species to our planet. Make your state and country proud!

Places to Visit

Name of place:

3 interesting facts about this place:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write a short statement, which would explain to Asil why the place you've listed is a wonderful place to visit.

Education

Name of the school:

3 interesting facts about the school:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write a short statement that would portray what makes this school unique and a desirable place to attend.

Business/Industry

Name of business/industry:

3 interesting facts about the business/industry:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write a short statement that highlights the career opportunities this business/industry might provide for Asil or his people. What product does this business/industry produce and how does this business/industry impact South Carolina?

Interesting Person

Person's name:

Where does this person reside:

3 interesting facts about this person:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write a short statement that explains how this person's efforts or talents are benefitting South Carolina.

Entertainment

Name of place or event:

Is this entertainment time specific or place specific? If so, when/where?

3 interesting facts about this entertainment:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write a short statement, which would entice Asil to attend this place or event. Why do you believe this would be the "perfect" entertainment event for Asil?

Final persuasive statement

Search for something in your edition of Sandlapper that was not covered in the categories, and that you believe would interest Asil and further persuade him South Carolina is wonderful. Your persuasive statement should emphasize your "unique find" you discovered in the article. You can include in your written statement what you saw as interesting in the article, and why you believe Asil would also find the facts you write interesting. How does the article relate to Asil and his situation? Finally, how would this article, and the facts you discovered, cement Asil's resolve in coming to our planet, as well as uphold our belief that South Carolina is a great place to live!

Possible Bonus Activities for Extra Credit

Create an advertisement, either written, drawn, or a combination of both, that highlights a category of your choosing. Remember advertisements persuade and employ many different strategies to persuade the consumer. It may be helpful to review persuasive techniques in your language arts text or with your language arts teacher.

Draw a map of SC and map each category you covered in your project. (What place is associated with each activity?) Create a key, on your map, that matches the categories to the places on your map.

Peer Rubric

Scale: (1) not at all, (2) somewhat, (3) usually, (4) to a considerable extent, (5) consistently

- _____ All directions were followed with the appropriate number of facts and statements in each category
- _____ Facts are appropriate for the category headings/true and accurate
- _____ Facts portray a complete picture of SC, giving Asil information needed for his understanding, so that he may determine if SC is a good place to settle
- _____ Few grammar/spelling errors
- _____ Our group learned something new by reviewing this project
- _____ Our group found this project persuasive and informative

Thank You Earth Beings!

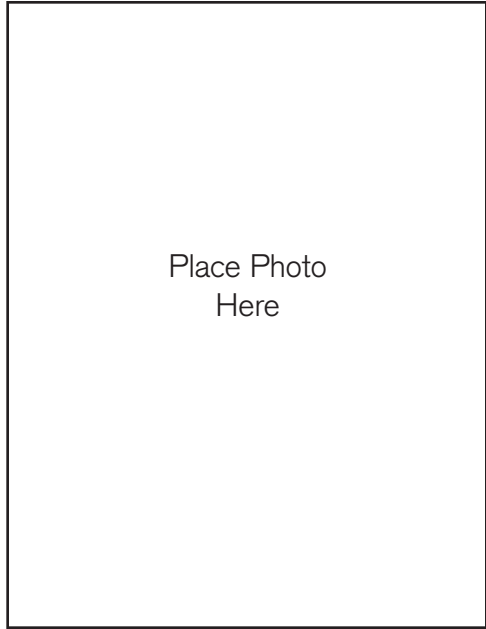
Your help has truly been remarkable. We now know and understand much about your culture. You are a fascinating people. This South Carolina must be a wonderful place to live! Good news though comes from my planet. We have defeated the hated beings from "Omri!" Your help however will not go unrewarded! We have sent what we understand to be an Earth delicacy and we have changed the name of our planet from Nipach to Chapin in hopes of becoming more like you.

Look to the heavens and remember your friends from a distant star.

P & P (Peace and Prosperity)

Asil Yar

PS I have sent a picture.



Teacher Rubric

Scale: (1) not at all, (2) somewhat, (3) usually, (4) to a considerable extent, (5) consistently

- _____ All directions were followed with the appropriate number of facts and statements in each category
- _____ Facts are appropriate for the category headings/true and accurate
- _____ Facts portray a complete picture of SC, giving Asil information needed for his understanding, so that he may determine if SC is a good place to settle
- _____ Few grammar/spelling errors
- _____ As your teacher I learned something new by reviewing this project
- _____ This project was persuasive and informative