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A LOOK AT SOCIAL STUDIES IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

In 5th grade Social Studies, students became teachers as they instructed the class about their assigned human ancestor. In small groups, students used the Chromebooks to research their assigned topic- such as Lucy, one of the oldest adult skeletons ever found, or Utzi, the oldest mummy to be discovered. Together, they created slides which they then used as a visual aid to teach their classmates about their topics. As students presented, the class created a timeline to show the different ancestors throughout prehistory to give students a better understanding of changes over time leading up to the establishment of civilizations.

In the pursuit to understand the human experience in history, 7th-grade students examine primary sources, text and trade books, artifacts, and reliable online research. Our 7th graders are tasked with gaining a discerning and empathetic knowledge of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the people involved. To enhance their comprehension and experience, students visited and reacted to an in-class museum exhibit. They will view a re-enactment of the Middle Passage voyage, and create their own narrative journal entry as an enslaved individual. The use of vivid language will be discussed and modeled to assist the students in drawing their audience into the actual life of an African captive. Evaluating and analyzing the impact of this historic event and time period will be reflected upon in future American history lessons as it relates to events past and present.