

Alabama Men's Hall of Fame

4th Grade Lesson Plans- Alabama History (50 minutes)

Wernher Von Braun

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Alabama State Social Studies Standard:

Recognizing Alabamians who have made significant contributions to society in Alabama

- Wernher Von Braun

Learning Objective

Fourth grade students will be able to create an autobiography picture book, in the shape of a rocket, about the life of Wernher Von Braun.

Evaluation of Learning Objective

Fourth grade students will be evaluated on their ability to create an autobiography picture book, in the shape of a rocket, about the life of Wernher Von Braun based on a checklist provided. (*See attached checklist)

Engagement

- Before the lesson begins, the teacher will do a KWL chart about Wernher Von Braun to assess prior knowledge and what students want to learn. (<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/pdf/kwl.pdf>)
- Teacher will have a rocket model displayed at the front of the class. Models can be purchased from the following website: (<http://www.asp-rocketry.com/store/category.cfm?Category=169>).
- The students will work in groups of four to create a paper model of a rocket. The teacher will tell the students that the paper rocket will be used later in the lesson. A paper cut out of the rocket and steps on how to build are found on the following

websites: (<http://www.groeg.de/puzzles/pdf/rocket.pdf>)
(<http://www.groeg.de/puzzles/rocket.html#howto>)

Learning Design

I. Teaching

- The teacher will show a graphic organizer of the life of Wernher Von Braun on the Lightsmith. The graphic organizer will include important facts about the Wernher Von Braun's life. These are the facts that students will need to include in their picture autobiography. (*see attached Graphic Organizer)
- The teacher will go over each point on the Graphic Organizer

II. Opportunities for Practice

Guided Practice

- Students will work in groups of four to create a timeline of the life of Wernher Von Braun.
- The timeline will include Wernher Von Braun's birth, death, and two noteworthy contributions
- Students will come to the front of the class and present their timeline.
- Timelines will be drawn on the four paper model rockets that the students created at the beginning of the lesson. Students will be encouraged to be creative with their rockets by coloring it and adding any other decorations to it before presenting it to the class.

Independent Practice

- Each student will create an autobiography picture book about the life of Wernher Von Braun. They will be evaluated using a checklist provided. Students will also be asked to decorate their rocket. (*See attached checklist and rocket cut out for the autobiography)

III. Assessment

- Students will create an autobiography picture book about the life of Wernher Von Braun. They will be evaluated using a checklist provided. Students will also be asked to decorate their rocket.

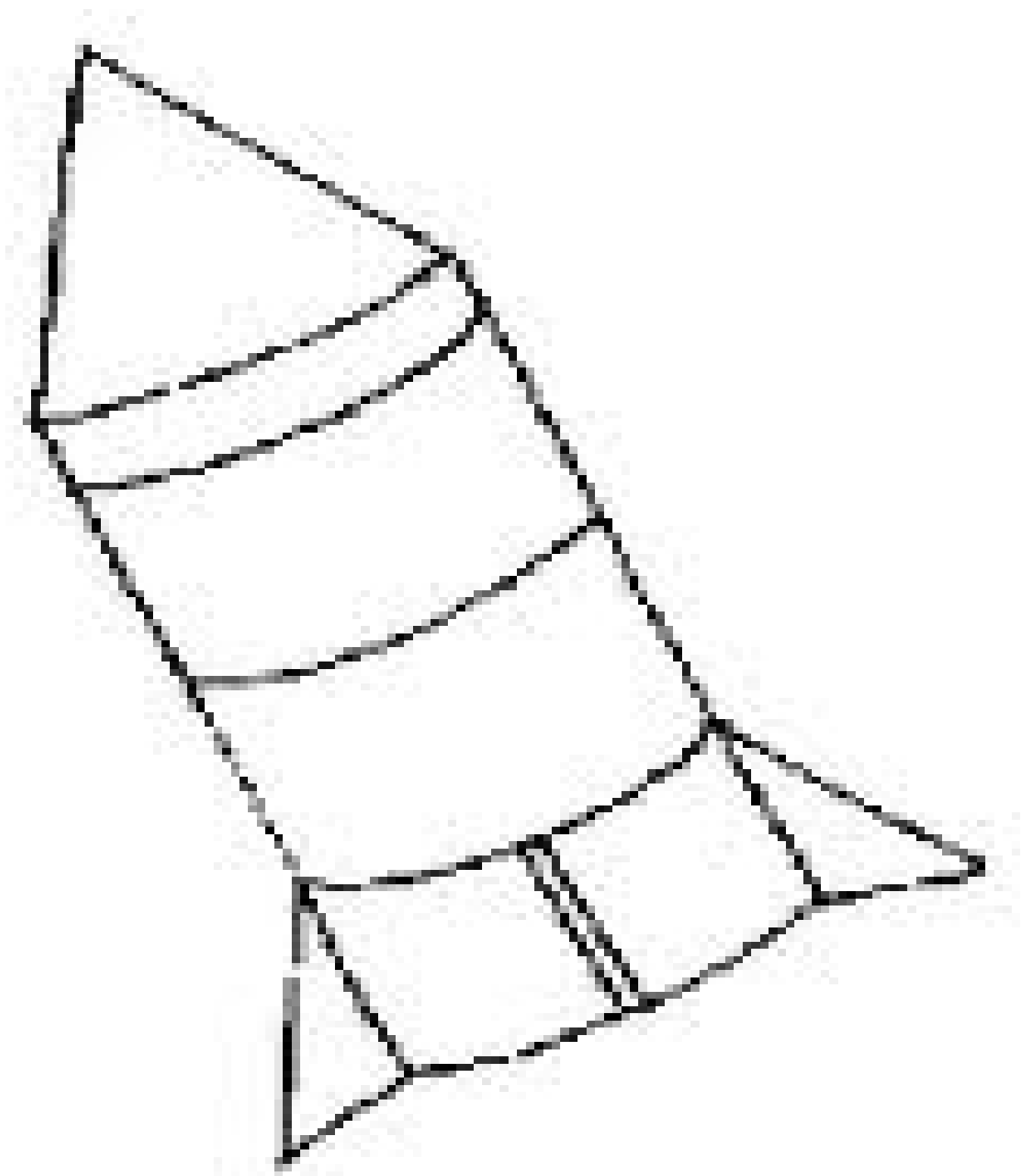
IV. Closure

- The teacher will review the facts learned about Wernher Von Braun.

Content and Resources

- Wernher Von Braun checklist for picture autobiography (*see attached document)
- Graphic Organizer (*see attached document)
- Rocket cut out for autobiography(*see attached document)
 - Give each student a rocket and attach five blank sheets behind it.
 - Then have students cut out the rocket with the attached sheets
 - Once completed, the students can staple their rocket and begin writing their information about Wernher Von Braun.
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Rocket Stickers
- Staplers
- Rocket model (refer to website provided)

Rocket Cut Out for Autobiography



Checklist for Autobiography

- ✓ Include Wernher Von Braun's name in the autobiography
 - Yes___ No___
- ✓ Include Wernher Von Braun's Birth/Death dates
 - Yes___ No___
- ✓ Include two major contributions (put each on a separate page)
 - Yes___ No___
- ✓ Include one major contribution in Alabama
 - Yes___ No___
- ✓ Include a picture on each page
 - Yes___ No___

Graphic Organizer

Wernher Von Braun

Birth:
March 23, 1912

Important Facts:

- German rocket scientist
- Aerospace engineer
- Space architect
- Lead the development of the Saturn V booster rocket that helped land the first men on the moon
- He received the National Medal of Science
- The ABMA development team led by von Braun was transferred to NASA in Huntsville, AL
- During the late 1960s, von Braun was instrumental in the development of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL
- A center director at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL

Death:
June 16, 1977