

# What's With NFL Team Nicknames?

Field Trip/Virtual Field Trip Program



## General Description / Overview

- ✓ Please use the following lesson to help prepare your students for a more meaningful and interactive educational experience.

### Desired Outcome Alignment

#### Subject / Content Area

- Geography
- History
- Technology

#### Common Core Academic Standards

##### Geography

- Grade 5 Ohio Learning Standards:
  - o Geography Strand: Standards 4, 6, and 10
- Grade 3-5 Ohio Learning Standard
  - o Technology: 3-5.ICT.4.d. Produce and publish information appropriate for a target audience using digital learning tools and resources.

#### National Academic Standards

**Geography:** The World in Spatial Terms: Standards 1-3; Places and Regions: Standards 4-6; Human Systems: Standards 9-13

**Technology:** 1-Empowered Learner; 2-Digital Citizen; 3-Knowledge Constructor

### **What will students be able to do (Objectives)**

- Today I'm going to learn about the history and geography of the NFL's city and establish the relationships between the two. I will know I'm successful when I can identify and describe the relationship between the two.

## **Personalized Learning**

### **Universal Design for Learning**

- To motivate and stimulate different learners, I would adapt this lesson with various ways for students to show their learning. For example, not just a presentation, students can demonstrate their learning through a poster, comic, acting it out, and checklists.

### **Accommodations / Modifications**

- Accommodations
  - o Grouping students
  - o Have printed versions with different Lexiles
  - o Audio recording version of the worksheet
  - o Extended time
- Modifications
  - o Students that would need a modified assignment would only be required to find 3 NFL team nicknames and would have a prepared slideshow that they just would need to transfer the information into the slide.
  - o When asked the question what did you learn from the presentation, they would answer orally to the teacher.

*This is the lesson component the instructor will complete before bringing students to the HOF for the field trip program.*

## **Prior to the Program (K-12 School)**

**Time Allotted:** 20 minutes

### **Materials/ Resources**

- Printed map highlighting cities with NFL teams
- Computer to access the Pro Football Hall of Fame's website
- Worksheet for students to record their finding
- List of questions for group discussions
- A writing utensil

### **Activating Prior Knowledge**

- Examine and read the descriptions of the nicknames of each NFL team. To do so visit the Pro Football Hall of Fame's website at:
- [https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/\\_/id/32814182/how-did-your-nfl-team-gets-name-origins-explained-all-32](https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/32814182/how-did-your-nfl-team-gets-name-origins-explained-all-32)
- Have the printed out map with stars next to the cities with NFL teams handed out and briefly review the cities represented with the class.

- Provide an example by examining the nickname of a specific NFL team using the Pro Football Hall of Fame's website. Discuss with the class how the team's name relates to its city and any historical or cultural significance it has.
- Divide the class into small groups and assign each group two different NFL team names to research.
- Instruct students to use the provided resources to deeper investigate the origins of their NFL team's nickname and identify any connections to the city it represents.
- Have them record their finding down on a sheet of paper
- Come together as a class and have each group share their findings as a whole group. Discussing any connections between team names and cities.
- Provide students with a list of questions to guide their exploration and discussion during the program.

#### **Assessment**

- Student to be assessed by teacher

#### **Enrichment**

- For students that finish and completely understand the assignment, they can have the chance to research basketball or soccer and their cities' correlations to team nicknames Instruct students to use the provided resources to deeper investigate the origins of their NFL team's nickname and identify any connections to the city it represents.

*This is the lesson component the HOF staff will complete with students at the HOF site during the field trip program.*

### **During the Program (HOF)**

**Time Allotted:** Small Group/Research Time: 30 minutes, Class Discussion: 15-20 minutes, NFL worksheet: 20 minutes

#### **Materials/ Resources**

- Computers for research
- Blank sheet to write notes down
- Pencil/Pen
- NFL Nickname Sheet

#### **Activities**

- (10 minutes) Welcome/Mission/Values
- (30 minutes) Discussion/Presentation and Videos on the Story of Pro Football
- (10 minutes) Question and Answer

#### **Assessment**

- Students will learn more about the NFL team histories and nicknames.
- Divide the students into small groups and have each group pick a different NFL team that they want to research.
- Students are able to research through articles, websites, and the Pro Football Hall of Fame website to research their team's history and nickname.
- Instruct your students to examine why their assigned team was awarded its nickname. Tell them to look into historical events, geographical features, and even fan preferences.
- Allow some time for your students to write down some notes that they had found while researching and have each group share their findings with the class.

- As a whole class, the teacher will lead a small discussion about the connections between NFL teams and the cities they represent. Each group can have a chance to report out what they found during research.
- Guide students to explore how NFL teams are deeply woven into the history and culture of their cities. Some questions you could ask:
  - o “How does your team’s nickname reflect the history or geography of its city?”
  - o “Can you think of any significant events or landmarks in your city’s history that are related to your team?”
- Have the students start completing the “What’s With NFL Team Nicknames?” worksheet independently, using the information they learned during the lesson. Students can use this information during their post-program activity.
- Students will complete the “What’s With NFL Team Nicknames Summary Sheet” provided (pages 5). Students can use this information during their post-program activity.

**Enrichment**

- When students are finished they can have the opportunity to become creative and design their own NFL team, complete with a unique nickname, logo, and backstory.

*This is the lesson component the instructor will complete with students back at their classroom after the field trip program.*

**After the Program (K-12 School)**

**Time Allotted:** 45-60 minutes

**Materials/ Resources**

- Computer for research
- Writing utensil
- Paper

**Activities**

- Teachers will divide students into groups and let the group decide on a team whose nickname does not have a connection with its city.
- Students will complete an analysis of the history of that city by examining their political, economic, and social histories.
- Students should examine the surrounding geographic features and of the city by examining its physiographic features (rivers, lakes, mountains, etc).
- Students should examine the cultural aspects of the city.
- Students will decide on a new nickname for this team based on history and/or geography of the city and they can NOT use any nickname currently used by another sports team. However, What about teams that moved from one city to another? For example, the New Orleans Jazz moved to Utah and kept that name. Jazz would be a better nickname for the New Orleans Pelicans even though another team is using the nickname. If students are able to back up why they want to use that name, they are able to do so. They still have to do research to prove it and they would've learned the same things. Students can use the Internet and the library for this research. To give students some direction here is a list of possible questions for the students to research information:
  - o What is the state bird?
  - o What were the city’s significant historical events?

- What is the major economic activity in the city?
- What are the major historical figures in the city?
- What major landmarks are in the city?
- Students will present their chosen nickname using sources that explain their decision for the new nickname (PowerPoint, show board, student Wiki, etc). For example: Arizona Cardinals, Arizona "Scorpions", Arizona "Cacti", Arizona "Deserts", Arizona "Grand Canyons" Study models of travel reviews from such sources as Ohio Magazine.

**Assessment**

- Students will deliver a presentation on the reasoning behind their new nickname for the team. Visual aid could be used such as PowerPoint, written report, show board, student Wiki, etc.

