**Curriculum Design**

**4th Grade Social Studies**

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**Statement of Purpose**

History will forever be a part of every Social Studies classroom’s curriculum. Students, however, often have trouble with many of the concepts because they cannot relate to or make connections with the things that have happened before they were born. Slavery is a topic that students are often very curious about because they cannot fathom why people were treated differently simply because of the color of their skin. This unit will make students more aware of the time in our country’s history when the issue of slavery divided our nation. Through readings, videos, activities, and discussions, students will become informed about slavery in the United States and the role Ohio played in this history.

The fourth grade Ohio Academic Content Standards in Social Studies state that students need to be able to describe the cultures of African Americans who have settled in Ohio over time. Slavery in the southern United States played a major role in the culture of African Americans. The major impact Ohio had on slavery was the part it played in the Underground Railroad. Students will learn how Ohio helped slaves escape and also helped during the Civil War.

Technology will play a major role in this unit. Individual learners need information presented to them in a variety of ways. In order for students to be prepared for technology in their future, they need to be experiencing technology in the classroom. Some of the technology included in this lesson is watching short video clips, responding to questions in Word documents, and taking a role in an interactive website.

At the time of slavery there were some very strong societal values. Students need to understand these issues in order to make their own values in the future. This unit is designed to help develop a well-balanced student by teaching about the prejudice in the past to help prevent prejudice in the future.

**References**

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