

Civilian & Military Time Conversion

Developed by: Terrie Hanke 2006 Teacher on the Trail™

Discipline: Mathematics and Language Arts

Topic: Converting military time to civilian time

Grade Level: 3 - 5

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

Access to Iditarod website and procedures for converting military to standard time

Lesson Summary: Time arriving and time departing from checkpoints on the Iditarod Trail is reported in military time. Students can understand the positives and negatives of both the military and civilian time clock by examining “why” Iditarod chooses to post using the military clock compared to the civilian clock. Students will use examples from the race to practice converting time from military to civilian and civilian to military. At the conclusion of the conversion exercise, students will create a persuasive composition to express their personal opinion as to whether military time should become the universal clock used around the world.

Standard's Addressed: McREL (Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning

Mathematics

Std 1. Uses a variety of strategies in the problem-solving process.

Std 4. Understands and applies basic and advanced properties of the concepts of measurement.

Language Arts

Std 1. Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process.

Std 3. Uses grammatical and mechanical conventions in written compositions.

Learning objectives:

1. Understands the necessity of the military time clock.
2. Can convert military to civilian time.
3. Have an opinion about the best way to communicate time.

Assessment:

1. Written or oral expression
2. Completion of worksheet 80% accuracy
3. Written expression in the form of a persuasive argument.

Procedural Activities

Direct students to race results on the Iditarod web page. Students will notice familiar times as well as times they are not familiar with. Introduce the concept of military time. Provide the students with the Civilian & Military Time Conversion worksheet. Have the students convert the civilian time to military time and the military time to civilian for each musher. After this exercise, discuss the positives and negatives of each time system. Finally, discuss the reasons for Iditarod and the military using the Military clock. Continue practicing conversions as the race progresses from Anchorage to Nome by asking the students to convert the times mushers arrive at a given checkpoint to civilian time. At the end of the race, complete the activity by asking the students if all time should be told using the military system. Students can write a persuasive paper for the purpose of expressing their opinion and the reason for their opinion.

Materials Students Need:

Background information on military time. Procedure for converting military time to civilian time. Civilian & Military Time Conversion worksheet.

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

Students can research background information on military time along with the formula for converting to civilian time. Students can be responsible for following the race and converting the reported time in and time out from a checkpoint into civilian time. As an alternative, students could convert the finishing times for all the mushers as they reach Nome.

Other Information

For enhancement activities, students will need information regarding time zones for the United States.

Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities

Once the students are able to convert military time to civilian time, they can expand their concept of time to include time zones. Ask the students to figure out the difference between their local time and the local time in Nome. After converting the time a mushers crosses the finish line to civilian time, ask the students to go a step further and convert it from the local time in Nome to the local time of your school.

Notes: