

SALMON CIVILIZATION

Thank you for your interest in Salmon Civilization.

Salmon Civilization connects students to the living history of Celilo Falls through art and humanities. It teaches students about the historical, cultural, and economic significance of Celilo Falls through the arts and humanities, and raises awareness that Celilo Falls is a living history that continues today.

“The first task of a ‘culture conscious’ geographer in studying a region is to see the region as it is understood by the people who inhabit it.” William Thomas, Jr.

Salmon Civilization is based on the curriculum “Celilo Falls StoryPath” from the “Since Time Immemorial” Curriculum (STI). This curriculum was approved by the Washington Federated Tribes and is mandatory in Washington State.

Salmon Civilization aims to use the students’ imagination and creativity to facilitate personal investment in the history of Celilo Falls. It is a project-based curriculum which integrates the humanities by including memoir and journal writing, art making, and analyzing historical first-person narratives, essays and articles that illustrate different points of view.

Today the River Tribes, which were mostly moved to various reservations such as Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Yakama, are sovereign nations within the USA and have special fishing rights on the Columbia River. This program will highlight the resiliency of the tribes, which continue to practice ancient traditions and work to keep the traditional languages alive.

4th grade teachers at May Street wrote: “Through the integration of the Salmon Civilization, our students learned through first hand experience an importance piece of Oregon and Native American History. Our students were able to experience loss at a personal level as well as higher level thinking in evaluating the needs of a society versus the wants of a few.”

This pilot program will give teachers an idea of how they can adapt STI and integrate it into the permanent curriculum at their school.

As part of this program, I can either invite a Native Educator to come to the classroom or meet us on a field trip at Celilo Park. Contact with the Native Educators provides an opportunity to break down stereotypes and build greater understanding of the Native experience through first person narrative. Salmon Civilization has also partnered with the Confluence Program which brings Native Educators into the classroom. Native American educators teach traditional language, story telling, fishing practices, art making, and music.

Salmon Civilization

Connecting students to the living history of Celilo Falls through art and humanities.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to connect students to the historical, cultural, and economic significance of Celilo Falls through the arts and humanities, and to raise awareness that Celilo Falls is a living history that continues today.

Method: Using the Storypath/Storyline method, the class creates their own communities and stories based on historical events. This blends the students' imagination with the historical record and encourages a personal connection to the history.

The three learning outcomes and indicators are:

1. Exposure to different cultural perspectives
2. Investigate how geography influences culture
3. Place -Based: Understand the history of where one lives

Specifically, students learn the history of Celilo Falls, the legal status of tribes (tribal sovereignty), and how the tribes responded to loss of Celilo and meet challenges today.

Qualifications for Pamela Larsen

MA: Wesleyan University, Masters Degree in Liberal Studies, 8/93

BA: Reed College, Bachelors Degree in Art History, 5/89

Certifications Licensed to teach Language Arts (9th-12th), OR 1995

Licensed to teach Art (K-12th), OR 1993

Completed Level One: Expressive Arts Therapy, 2017

Trauma Informed / Completed Sanctuary Training, 2017

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training, 2018