

MISSISSIPPI STUDIES

SUPPLEMENTARY TEACHING ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Edited by

Jesse O. McKee
J. Jesse Palmer
Michael Harrison

The University of Southern Mississippi

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Preface

In 1992, the Mississippi Department of Education revised the social studies curriculum and implemented a new course called Mississippi Studies. The course was to be placed into the school curriculum in 1995. The time lapse between origin and implementation was given so that new textbooks could be written and published by the start of the 1995-96 school year. Several books were published and subsequently adopted by the state textbook adoptions board, and the course has been offered in the state's schools since 1995.

Many teachers of the Mississippi Studies course had previously taught the course as Mississippi history. But the newly designed course was now much more comprehensive. The new course included more emphasis in geography, government and civics, economics, literature, music and the arts. Teachers of Mississippi Studies had to broaden their knowledge and skills in order to incorporate these new interest areas into their lectures. During the past several years several workshops have been sponsored by various institutions within the state offering enhanced training for teachers of Mississippi Studies.

During the summer of 2000, a workshop was conducted on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi for teachers of Mississippi Studies. Not only were teachers to be further trained in Mississippi Studies, but they would produce lesson plans about various topics in Mississippi Studies that would be used by other teachers of Mississippi Studies across the state to enhance their classroom presentations. The results of their efforts culminated in the publication of Mississippi Studies: Supplemental Teaching Activities and Resources for Students (STARS). This publication is meant to provide auxiliary material to teachers to supplement their current Mississippi Studies textbook in order to enhance student learning about Mississippi Studies.

STARS has a total of fifteen lessons divided into four sections: Geography, History, Government, and Arts, Music and Literature. Each lesson is self-contained and includes all of the information and materials needed to teach the lesson. An answer key to the student activities is located in the Appendix. The publication is designed so it can be placed in a three-ring notebook and teachers can select a lesson that will supplement a particular topic/chapter that is being taught in a Mississippi Studies class.

Jesse O. McKee
Jesse Palmer
Mike Harrison

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