

University of Pittsburgh
School of Education
Lesson Plan
Prekindergarten Practicum / Fall Term

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School/District: Carnegie Mellon Children's School

What is the big idea that includes your lesson?

Native Americans used nature as their inspiration to sing, dance, paint and tell stories

Lesson Objective(s)

The students will be able to understand the importance of the rain dance and the parts of a thunderstorm by creating an interactive thunder storm within the classroom.

The students will understand the legend of the Indian paint brush and paint a sunset using water colors and a canvas.

Standards

Standard 9.4 Aesthetic Response to Art: student will respond to works of art by expressing feelings.

Standard 1 Reading, Writing, Speaking and listening 1.6.K.A: Listen and respond appropriately to others in small and large group situations.

1.6.K.B: Speak clearly enough to be understood by all audiences using appropriate volume. Share stories, familiar experiences and interests, employing gestures where appropriate.

Materials Needed for Lesson

- Legend of the PaintBrush Tomi Depaola
- Youtube clip of sunset rising
- Example of the paints used by the Native Americans
- Canvas for painting
- Paint brushes
- Berry paint (assorted fruits crushed up)
- Rain Dance Book

Lesson Launch

The teacher will use her flute to quiet the students down before circle time. She will remind them that when they hear the sound of the flute their lips must be completely silent. The teacher will explain that the Native Americans used nature to create art and music and one of their famous legendary dance was known as the Rain Dance.

Lesson Body:

The teacher will read the book entitled "Rain Dance." Afterwards the students will participate in an interactive rain dance activity where they actually create the sound of rain using their hands to make a thunderstorm. The teacher will have the students sit in a circle as they do this so that everyone can see what action the teacher is performing. Afterwards, the teacher will have the students turn back around on the rug and will read to them (or have them listen to) a recording of "The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush." After asking some comprehension questions, the teacher will talk about the painting of a sunset as being one of the important elements of nature.

Lesson Close

The students will watch a stop motion (55 second) clip of a sunset setting in the west. The teacher will discuss with the students the colors of the sunset that they saw in the book and the colors they will be using to paint their own sunset during the activity period. The teacher will also discuss how the Native Americans made their paint (berries, mud, tree bark, etc.)

Adaptations

During the circle time activity, the teacher should make sure that every student who has their hand raised is able contribute to the conversation.

Adaptations will be made for students who need to sit closer or farther away on the rug depending on their attention level. In addition, the teacher will have an example of a painting already made for the students who may need more help creating their sunset.

In addition, adaptations will be made for students who may not be able to follow directions during the rain storm movement activity.

Extensions:

For students who are eager to learn more about the facts of the Native American life, the teacher will include this during circle-time. The teacher will ask a couple of difficult comprehension questions for the students who are already reading.

