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Pre-Visit
Lesson Plan

Culture Exchange

DOT RED

INTRODUCTION

Family artifacts are a great way to understand someone's culture. It holds certain values that families cherish because it was brought down from generation to generation, i.e., a sculpture, a photo, or a meal. It also helps people learn about each other in ways beyond the surface.

This lesson will give students the opportunity to learn more about each other's cultural values to better understand each other on a deeper level and find out more about themselves.

OBJECTIVE

Students will:

- Learn about culture, the past, and present
- Share their Photo artifact with another student in class or in front of the class
- Examine similarities and differences of tradition

LEARNERS

This lesson is designed for lower-elementary-grade students, but it can easily be adjusted for older students, based on the amount of writing assigned to the project. The main themes are anchored in critical thinking skills. Themes also relate to history and social science, language arts, visual arts, and writing.

MATERIALS

- Learning About Artifacts
- Artifacts Question Worksheet

CONTENT STANDARDS

History-Social Science:

1st Grade

1.4 Students compare and contrast everyday life in different times and places around the world and recognize that some aspects of people, places, and things change over time while others stay the same.

1.4.3 Recognize similarities and differences of earlier generations in such areas as work (inside and outside the home), dress, manners, stories, games, and festivals, drawing from biographies, oral histories, and folklore.

1.5.1 Recognize the ways in which they are all part of the same community, sharing principles, goals, and traditions despite their varied ancestry; the forms of diversity in their school and community; and the benefits and challenges of a diverse population.

1.5.3 Compare the beliefs, customs, ceremonies, traditions, and social practices of the varied cultures, drawing from folklore.

3rd Grade

3.3.3 Trace why their community was established, how individuals and families contributed to its founding and development, and how the community has changed over time, drawing on maps, photographs, oral histories, letters, newspapers, and other primary sources.

VISUAL ARTS

3.3 Look at and discuss works of art from a variety of times and places.

1st Grade

3.0 HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

Understanding the Historical Contributions and Cultural Dimensions of the Visual Arts

Diversity of the Visual Arts

3.3 View and then describe art from various cultures.

3.4 Identify art objects from various cultures (e.g., Japanese screen painting, Mexican tin art, African masks) and describe what they have in common and how they differ.

Visual And Performing Art:

2nd Grade

4.0 AESTHETIC VALUING

Responding to, Analyzing, and Making Judgments About Works in the Visual Arts

PROCEDURE

Ask students to list objects that can be called an artifact. Begin a discussion about artifacts that can be found in their home.

Questions might include:

- Is there a special dish that your parents or grandparents make on special occasions?
- Do you or your family wear any special garments on holidays?
- Are there any objects or statues that are in your home that your family has kept for a long time?
- Why is it important?
- What can you learn about your family's artifacts?

ACTIVITY

1. Ask Students' parent/guardian to print out a picture of a cultural artifact that is from their family.
2. Have students answer "Artifact Question Sheet."
3. Have students bring the photo of the artifact to class along with the "Artifact Question Sheet"
4. Students will present their artifact to 4 different students in class. Each student will have 5 minutes to share their artifact with another student.
5. Ask students about differences they noticed between their artifacts and their classmate. What were the similarities?
6. (After Tour) Explain to the class that they will be creating their own artifact. Review what students remember from their experience on the tour.
 - What do you think will make a good artifact that represents you?
 - What colors would you use?
 - What material(s) would you use?
7. Have students create their own artifact. They can use props from class or create one from home.

EVALUATIONS

After students have created their own artifact, have a class tour where each student will talk about his or her own artifact. Allow one-half the class go to each student to talk about their work for 10-15 minutes. Then switch so that all students get a chance to both ask about work and talk about their work.

ADAPTATIONS

This lesson can be adapted for higher grades based on the amount of time you allow students to create their own artifact and writing involved with the project.

LEARNING ABOUT ARTIFACTS

An artifact is an object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest. They can be found all over the world and in places you might not even think. They can be underneath the ground, in the home, and even on your body. Some artifacts date back thousands of years, and some go back only a couple days. Just about anything can be an artifact but it has to mean something to the person that's viewing it because of its cultural or historical meaning.

Artifacts mean something to the viewer because it represents something about who that person is or where that person comes from. Artifacts are photos, sculptures, clothing, artwork, jewelry, coins, and about a million other objects.

Usually, families, museums, art galleries and public spaces carry tons examples of these objects to share their cultural or historical placement in the world.

Can you name an artifact that can be found in your home? There are coins, clothing (Kilt, dashiki, Poncho, etc.), artwork, jewelry, photographs, pottery, etc.

Artifacts can help you learn about people and their culture, about famous inventions, and about the many things people create. Artifacts can teach you about the past, the present, and even the future. Sometimes you have to look real hard at an object to know what it is, other times you might know a lot about it! Either way, you are always learning!

ARTIFACT QUESTION SHEET

Describe the object. How does it feel? What do you think it is made of? What colors do you see?

How was this object used?

How long has it been in your family?

What does this object mean to your family?