

Lesson Plan 1

Title: Cultural Festival

Grade Levels: 5-8

Subjects: Social Studies and Multicultural Exploration

Duration: 3-4 weeks

Goals:

To highlight and discover different cultures that the class represents. To have the children become familiar with other cultures overall and experience their differences firsthand. As well as, teach world geography.

Materials:

Large world map and smaller maps of countries, push pins, books of countries and cultures, tape/CD player, tapes and cd's from child's family, authentic representations of varied cultures (food/instruments/art/signs), evaluation forms

Objectives:

Students will discuss the varying cultures represented by their class. They will recognize that the classroom and the community they live in is made up of people with varying cultures. They will also recognize that each culture has its own history. Students will research their native or ancestor's native culture/country. Identifying some of the differences that they have from other cultures and identifying some of the similarities. They will prepare and present a demonstration that highlights some of the unique features of that culture.

Procedure:

A good time to do advanced preparation for this project is at a start of the year open house at the school. Hang a large world map in the classroom and as the children and their families come to visit, have them put a push pin in the country that represents their heritage and culture. Then, when you begin this lesson you can reference the map and the locations that various children have a connection to.

Have each child pick a country that represents their culture (see map idea above.) The child will then research that country for a presentation. Set goals and guidelines for the presentation and grading criteria. Ex: a time limit (5-7 min.), what is to be included (a food to represent the chosen country, music, a drawing, etc.), and any other standards you wish to set (dress apparel, etc.)

Let the students know they can include other interesting facts they may find.

Allow them class time over the next couple weeks to prepare. (May form groups if you wish to do project quicker.) Set up times to practice with each student and review their presentation. Make sure any media helpers such as audio CDs or visuals are prepared. You may wish to invite other classes or family members to come to the final presentation. Let the students enjoy the art, food and history that each student presents to their class.

Assessment:

Follow up with short quizzes based on presentations or have open discussions about what each student learned and the cultures they represent. Also, don't forget to document the presentations and hang pictures around the classroom of the exciting presentations.