

Father Sky and Mother Earth

Life Skills:

- Collaboration
- Complex Thinking
- Responsible Citizenship

Curriculum Tie:

- **Science**
5th Grade
[Standard 2](#)
[Objective 1](#)
- **Science**
5th Grade
[Standard 2](#)
[Objective 2](#)
- **Science**
5th Grade
[Standard 2](#)
[Objective 3](#)

Time Frame:

2 class periods that run 45 minutes each.

Group Size:

Large Groups

Summary:

Incorporating Navajo traditional philosophy into science. Our Father Sky and Mother Earth provide for our most basic needs; therefore we need to protect our environment, natural resources and our lives.

Career Connections:

- Environmentalist

Materials:

globe, poster of the solar system, science textbook, informational books on taking care of the environment

Student Prior Knowledge:

Students would need to have some background knowledge about how the solar system works in such a way as to allow the earth to have living and non-living things.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Students will know how natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, and erosion can change Earth's surface, and they will know how the earth is dependent on the sun, moon and solar system for life to exist.

Instructional Procedures:

1. Setting a Purpose for Reading:
"Today we are going to read about our Father Sky and Mother Earth. We will read about how important it is for our earth to remain in balance with the solar system."
2. Activating Background Knowledge:
Ask students to brainstorm what they already know about the earth, sky, sun, moon and stars. List all ideas on a graphic organizer to activate background knowledge.

Building Knowledge:
Show poster of the solar system and discuss the relationship between the earth, moon, sun and other planets and how they work together.
3. Read Aloud:
Comprehension strategy will focus on determining importance.

Teacher will guide students through reading the text, periodically stopping and summarizing the most important ideas and asking questions about the text. As students read, they will be encouraged to ask questions to generate

discussion.

4. Culminating Activity: Scenario Problem Solving Project

Ask students to work in groups to think of a problem that is happening in the community that effects the environment. It could be pollution, misuse of natural resources, or care and usage of plants. Students can then create a plan to solve the problem through community service and involvement projects.

Strategies For Diverse Learners:

Challenge Activity: Students can write an essay about an environmental problem that is happening in the community and present these ideas to their peers.

English Language Learners Activity: Students can make posters on the importance of keeping Mother Earth clean. Then will also make flyers and hand them out to people to create community awareness of important environmental issues.

Extensions:

Make connections to other national and worldwide environmental issues that are important in this century.

Some ideas are global warming; oil spills in oceans; chemical spills that are polluting rivers; streams and oceans that are harmful to fish, marine life, animals and humans etc.

Assessment Plan:

Teachers will use the culminating activity to determine whether students were able to grasp the important concepts of environmental problems that are harmful to the earth and sky.

Bibliography:

<http://www.nasa.com>
<http://mysolarsystem.com>

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