

Honeeshgish a Navajo Tale

Life Skills:

- Complex Thinking
- Effective Communication

Curriculum Tie:

- **Language Arts**
3rd Grade
[Standard 6](#)
[Objective 1](#)
- **Language Arts**
3rd Grade
[Standard 7](#)
[Objective 2](#)

Time Frame:

2 class periods that run 30 minutes each.

Group Size:

Large Groups

Summary:

Students will learn more about Navajo culture by reading "Honeeshgish," using comprehension strategies to better understand the text.

Main Curriculum Tie:

Social Studies - 3rd Grade

[Standard 3 Objective 2](#)

Compare the emergence of culture in the local area with the indigenous cultures of the United States.

Career Connections:

- Anthropologist

Materials:

- Book: "Coyote Steals Fire", Ma'ii Kq' Yineez'ii'
- Book: "Father Sky & Mother Earth"

Background For Teachers:

The Navajo Creation Story would be good background knowledge for teachers. A brief overview is that the Navajo people first emerged through four worlds, and it is believed that we are in the fourth world.

Student Prior Knowledge:

The student will need to know how lighting and fire were developed, understood, and used.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Students will gain an understanding of Navajo culture by reading "Honeeshgish" and use reading strategies to better comprehend the text.

Instructional Procedures:

1. Set a purpose for reading: "Today we are going to read the Navajo legend 'Honeeshgish,' which refers to how the Navajo people view fire and it's elements. As we read we will ask questions and think about the story to make sure we are understanding the text."
2. Activating background knowledge: Brainstorm all the ways that we use fire in our daily living. Provide an example for students: "One way we use fire is for cooking."
3. Read Aloud: Teacher will read the story, stopping periodically to ask students comprehension questions, and

encouraging students to ask their own questions as they read the text.

4. Culminating Activity: Invite a firefighter to present on fire safety and prevention.

Strategies For Diverse Learners:

Challenge Learners: Under strict supervision, the teacher can do a cookout where the students are required to cook their own food (hot dogs, marshmallows and smores).

English Language Learners: Ask students to create fire safety posters to display around the school.

Extensions:

Navajo Culture Connections: Students can study other aspects of Navajo culture, such as Navajo cooking techniques and foods, and other cultural connections, such as the creation stories.

Use the book "Coyote Steals Fire" to make text-to-text connections with "Honeeshgish."

Assessment Plan:

Ask students to work as partners to retell the story and discuss the key ideas that they gained from this legend.

Bibliography:

San Juan School District Media Center

Author:

[BRENDA WHITEHORSE](#)

Created Date :

Jun 07 2006 13:13 PM

