

Compare/Contrast w/ "Cottontail...Sun: A Ute Tale"

Life Skills:

- Collaboration
- Effective Communication
- Complex Thinking

Curriculum Tie:

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

Time Frame:

2 class periods that run 45 minutes each.

Group Size:

Small Groups

Summary:

Using the Traditional Ute Tale, "Cottontail Shoots the Sun," students will compare and contrast the effects of the sun described in the story and the effects discovered through scientific investigation. Special thanks to our cultural consultant from the Western Shoshone nation, Patty Timbimboo-Madsen, and Olivia Ben, Alpine School District Title VII program.

Main Curriculum Tie:

Language Arts - 3rd Grade

[Standard 1 Objective 1](#)

Develop language through listening and speaking.

Career Connections:

- Scientist, Environmentalist and Creative Writing.

Materials:

a bag of clothes with the following items: coat, jacket, gloves, hat, scarf, earmuffs, sunglasses, shorts, lightweight shirt, sandals, swimming suit

aluminum foil

chocolate chips

2 squares of graham crackers for each child

mini marshmallows

1 large cake pan for each group of 8 students

"Ralphie is Hot" Worksheet (pdf)

"Did You Use the Sun Today?" Worksheet (pdf)

Sunshine Cutouts (pdf)

Sunlight song (pdf)

Special thanks to the collaborators of the lesson plan "It's Hot" (TRB 3:5:1 Science Investigation, found at the link below) and copies of the story "Cottontail Shoots the Sun," a traditional Ute tale (ordering information listed in website section below)

Attachments

- [9761-2-13547-ralphie_hot.pdf](#)
- [9761-2-13548-sun.pdf](#)
- [9761-2-13549-sunshine_cutouts.pdf](#)
- [9761-2-13550-sunlight_song.pdf](#)
- [venn_diagram.doc](#)

Venn column diagram for the second part of this lesson, to be completed by 3-4 students.

Web Sites

- [Utah Education Network/Lesson Plans](#)

Lesson plan resource. Ideas for the science lesson were implemented for this lesson, linking the Ute Tale "Cottontail Shoots the Sun" with a science experience. Special thanks goes to the collaborators for TRB 3:5:1, found on the UEN website.

- [San Juan School District](#)

San Juan School District Media Center and the Utah State Board of Education offer copies of the Native American traditional tales in CD or booklet form. Multiple copies can be printed from the CD. Teaching suggestions, vocabulary list, and a glossary of words in the traditional tribal language are included in each story booklet.

Background For Teachers:

Teachers will want to preview the instructions in Lesson Plan TRB 3:5:1 Investigation "It's Hot," found in the above link.

Also, read the Ute tale "Cottontail Shoots the Sun," a story that can be told any time of the year. This story is based on a traditional story that has been passed down by oral traditional storytellers.

Student Prior Knowledge:

Students should be familiar with what a traditional folktale is, and with examples such as "The Little Red Hen," "Hansel and Gretl," "Cinderella," "The Gingerbread Man," "Little Red Riding Hood," and "The Three Little Pigs". Children should also be familiar with the sun, heat, "compare and contrast", and the word "investigation."

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to do the following: (1) Read "Cottontail Shoots the Sun" in small groups; (2) list the effects of the sun in the story; and (3) after the science experiment, compare and contrast the effects of the sun in the story and in the science investigation. (See Lesson Plan link.)

Instructional Procedures:

Class Session #1

(1) Have the children do the science experiment/investigation on the effects of the sun. (Pull up Lesson Plan TRB 3:5:1 Investigation - "It's Hot," found on the website link below.)

Class Session #2

(1) Class discussion on traditional tales, including familiar tales and traditional Native American tales "Coyote Steals Fire," "The Moccasin Game" and "Coyote and Rock."

(2) Present the traditional Ute tale, "Cottontail Shoots the Sun."

(3) Divide the class into groups of three. Each group will have one student be the writer, another one watch for similarities, and the third watch for differences.

(4) Have the teacher read the book aloud.

- (5) Put the students in groups of 3-4 persons each. Hand out the student worksheet, "Column Venn Diagram." Use the author-generated attachment below.
- (6) Have the students collaborate to complete the Venn Diagram worksheet.
- (7) Have a class discussion on what the sun did in the experiment and how the author described what the sun did in the story. Find the similarities between the two. Have the students complete the Venn Diagram in their groups.
- (8) Have the students complete the activity. See attachment.

Attachments

- [venn_diagram.doc](#)
Group Venn Column Diagram for comparing/contrasting the ways the sun can be described (using the science experience and the reading of "Cottontail Shoots the Sun.")

Web Sites

- [Utah Education Network/Lesson Plan Resource](#)
Lesson plan for science investigation about the sun

Extensions:

Story pyramids can be used, as described in *Balanced Reading Strategies* by Reutzel and Cooter, 1999. See attachment for materials and instructions.

Play the Native American traditional game "The Hand Game," attached below.

Attachments

- [Play_the_Hand_Game.doc](#)
- [nativeamericans_board_game_lesson_plan.rtf](#)
A great lesson plan for an extension activity that will help students explore the Ute tribe
- [story_pyramid.pdf](#)
Story pyramid strategy, complete with material list and procedures, as well as an example. Taken from the textbook *Balanced Reading Strategies and Practices: Assessing and Assisting Readers with Special Needs* by D. Ray Reutzel and Robert B. Cooter, Brigham Young University, 1999. (See bibliography.)

Web Sites

- [Discovery School](#)
Lesson plans, including the lesson plan and links for the board game activity.

Assessment Plan:

Use story pyramids to assess comprehension of the story.

Attachments

- [story_pyramid.pdf](#)
Story pyramid strategy and how to carry them out, complete with a sample story pyramid

Bibliography:

[TRB 3:5:1 - Investigation - "It's Hot"](#)

"Cottontail Shoots the Sun." A traditional Ute tale. San Juan School District Media Center. Copies of student-size booklets can be ordered from <http://www.sanjuanschools.org/mediacenter> (link in the materials section of this lesson).

<http://freeology.com/graphicorgs/pdf/columnvenn.pdf>

D. Ray Reutzel and Robert B. Cooter. *Balanced Reading Strategies and Practices: Assessing and Assisting Readers with Special Needs*. Prentice Hall, 1999. ISBN#0-02-324715-0.

Author:

[LeeAnn Parker](#)

Created Date :

Jun 16 2006 14:31 PM



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Comments, e-mail: resources@uen.org

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