

The Legend of the Sleeping Ute

Life Skills:

- Collaboration
- Complex Thinking
- Effective Communication

Curriculum Tie:

- **2nd Grade**
Language Arts
[Standard 7](#)
[Objective 2](#)

Time Frame:

2 class periods that run 30 minutes each.

Group Size:

Large Groups

Summary:

This is a culturally rich lesson that teaches genre, vocabulary, reading comprehension, seasons and colors.

Main Curriculum Tie:

2nd Grade - Language Arts
[Standard 6 Objective 3](#)

Use structural analysis and context clues to determine meanings of words.

Career Connections:

- linguist, writer, teacher

Materials:

"The Legend of the Sleeping Ute" originally told by Russell Lopez and adapted by Merry M. Palmer and Mary Jane Yazzie. These books can be printed from the CD or ordered from the [San Juan School District Media Center](#) at (435)678-1229.

Anticipation guide

Vocabulary guide

Attachments

- [Legend_of_Sleeping_Ute_Anticipation_Guide.doc](#)
Anticipation guide.
- [Legend_of_Sleeping_Ute_Vocabulary_Guide.doc](#)
Vocabulary guide

Background For Teachers:

Sleeping Ute is an actual mountain in the four Corners area of Colorado and can be seen by the White Mesa Ute Tribe. The features of the Sleeping Ute are clearly visible on the Colorado side. Review the anticipation and vocabulary guides.

Student Prior Knowledge:

The students should know where the Four Corners area is located and be able to recognize where Sleeping Ute would be found. They should also understand the genre categories so that they can determine that this is a fable.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

The students will learn five new vocabulary words along with some Ute words for the seasons. They will also increase in comprehension skill.

Instructional Procedures:

DAY ONE

1. Divide the students into groups of three.
2. Give the students the vocabulary guide. Explain that this guide is a tool to help them learn and remember new words.
3. Explain that all of them will find the words in text. One of them will write the words as they were used in the text. The second student will write at least one synonym for each word. The third student will write a different sentence using each word correctly. They should talk about these as they complete them. Finally, all three students discuss what they have written and choose one word that they want to act out as a group.
4. Give each group time to act out the word they chose, making sure there is plenty of applause at the end of each performance.

DAY TWO

1. Divide the students into partners.
2. Explain to the students that this guide is a way of activating prior knowledge so that when they learn new information they will be able to retain it. They need to keep in mind that this is not a true story, so the statements aren't going to be true, but instead will be statements that follow this fictional story. Their job is to determine which statements sound like statements that might be in a story called "The Legend of the Sleeping Ute." There are NO wrong answers!
3. Pass out the anticipation guide and have the students follow as you read the statements together.
4. After each statement, give the students time to determine with their partners whether they think the author of this story will agree or disagree with what the statement says.
5. Have the students mark their answers after each statement is discussed.
6. Tell the students that they will read the book with their partners and stop whenever they find the author's opinion about a statement in the anticipation guide. They will mark an "A" next to "agree" or "disagree" showing what the author said.
7. When everyone has completed the reading and responding, review together as a class.
8. Discover together that this story is a fable, because it has a lesson that has been passed on through the generations.

Extensions:

Teach the season words used by the Ute tribe. Page five of the book "The Legend of the Sleeping Ute" talks about spring and follows through with the other seasons on pages six, seven and eight.

English	Ute	Sounds like
Spring	Tamin	Ta'man

Summer	Tachit	Ta'chat
Fall	Yuvant	Yu'van'at
Winter	Tumut	Tur'murt

Students could also compare the colors from the story to the colors we see in our seasons.

Assessment Plan:

Use the completed anticipation and vocabulary guides as tools to assess understanding.

Bibliography:

"The Legend of the Sleeping Ute" as told by Russell Lopez and adapted by Merry M. Palmer and Mary Jane Yazzie

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