

Arts Integration: Understanding Why and How Lesson Plan Template

Lesson Name: Compare and Contrast Paper (This lesson will take place over the course of many days, as the students will be using all the steps of the writing process to complete their final copy.)

Goal (overall): Write an informational paper that compares and contrasts the cultural similarities and differences between Native Americans and Africans.

Objective (measurable - often begins with students *will...*):

- Students will research characteristics of African and Native American culture.
- Students will synthesize the information they have already learned about African and Native American culture from our previous lessons to write a compare/contrast paper.
- Students will write an organized five-paragraph compare and contrast paper.

Grade Level: 4th Grade

Arts Standards addressed:

Other Subject Areas Standards addressed:

- Write an informational comparative piece that demonstrates understanding of central and supporting ideas using an effective organizational pattern.
- Identify characteristics of the different Native Americans who settled in Michigan.
- Recognize the influences of Native Americans in Michigan.

Instructional Outline:

Introduction:

I will have taught many lessons leading up to this lesson to immerse the students in compare and contrast text. We will have learned about the structure of the compare and contrast text and the elements a compare and contrast paper has. Further, this lesson will require the students to use

knowledge they have gained from previous lessons on how to write organized paragraphs.

Question & Answer (information gathering):

- Now that we have studied Native American and African cultures in both our classroom and with Mrs. Post, what are some similarities you notice between the Native American and African's cultures?
- What are some differences you notice?

Classroom Management Strategy:

- The students will be working in groups to start, and then more individually when they start writing the paper.
- I will use the Responsible Thinking Process to help children think about their own actions, and to help minimize disruptions.

Warm-up Activity:

- In small groups, on the graphic organizer, the students will take notes of similarities and differences they notice between the two groups, using the research we have conducted earlier.
- I will keep the literature resources available during this activity in case the students want to look back for more ideas. They can also use their journals, where they will have been journaling after each of the earlier art and classroom activities we have done.

Main Activity:

- As a whole group, I will allow the students to share the ideas that they have written on their graphic organizers. I will record their ideas onto a projected document, so if some students could not come up with enough ideas, they may write down the ideas of others.
- Using the format that they will have already learned to write a compare and contrast paper, the students will draft, edit, revise, confer about, and publish a five-paragraph compare and contrast paper about the similarities and differences of Native American and African culture. Some broad topics for their paragraphs may include: instruments, rhythm, community, costume, masks, nature and the importance of circle.

Closure:

- The students will get to read their final draft aloud to another group of students.

Follow-up Assignment:

- We will do a final reflection on how the whole unit (going to the museum, making the Mali Mud Cloths, reading literature, writing our Footprint poem, dramatizing and creating a dance for our poem, performing at Explorer's Club, the research and writing the paper) has better helped them understand the cultures of these two groups.

Additional Information:

Materials Needed:

- Journals (Writers' Notebooks)
- Pencils and paper
- Literature

Outcomes/Assessment:

- The students will be graded on whether or not their paper follows the guidelines of a compare and contrast paper. I have a rubric for this assessment.