

Arts Integration  
Project Description of Unit/Plan/Lesson

Art Teacher: Beth Post

GE/SE Teacher: Kelli Langelier

School District: Williamston

School Building: Explorer Elementary

Enter a description of the arts integration project your partner team will be developing. Be sure to name the art form(s) and content area(s) you will be using. It would also be helpful to provide a thumbnail sketch of what you will be doing and why you chose that unit/plan/lesson.

“I Have Made A Footprint”

Compare and Contrast Cultures: West African and Native American

Art forms: dance, visual art, drama

Content areas: social studies, language arts

Kelli Langelier’s fourth grade class began West African study with a tour of the West African Textile exhibit at the Michigan State University Museum. While visiting the museum, the students learned traditional African dance with creative arts teacher, Beth Post and drew African designs/symbols with art teacher, Mila Theroux. Two visiting fiber artists from Mali then came to the elementary school and guided the students through the creation of Boubolan (mudcloth) scarves.

The students used the compare and contrast writing format to discuss the characteristics of African culture with the similarities and differences of Native American culture. The class reworked a Native American poem “I Have Made A Footprint” to reflect their perspectives on the culture and developed tableau in groups to act out the poem. The students shared their West African/ Native American learning and a performance of the “Footprint” poem at an all school assembly, Explorer’s Club.

Return this form to Chris Quinn by March 15, 2009

(Submit one form per partner team)

Send by email, fax (517-244-1154) or mail to Chris Quinn at  
Ingham Intermediate School District, 2630 W. Howell Road, Mason, MI 48854