

Arts Integration: A Mastodon is not a Dinosaur!

Lesson Plan

Lesson Name: Comparing and Contrasting a Mastodon to dinosaurs, wooly mammoths and elephants.

This lesson will take place over the course of many days, as the students research the similarities and differences between the different animals and the mastodon.

Goal: To create an understanding of the similarities and differences between a mastodon, a dinosaur, a wooly mammoth and an elephant.

Objective:

The students will be able to do the following:

- Students will brainstorm what they know about dinosaurs, wooly mammoths, elephants and mastodons.
- As a class, students will research characteristics of the mastodon (including: what they ate, where they lived, what type of animal they were, etc.). The teacher will write these characteristics down.
- As a class, students will research characteristics of dinosaurs, wooly mammoths, and elephants (on separate days).
- As a class, students will compare and contrast a mastodon to the other animals.
- Students will use the research they gain about mastodons, mammoths, dinosaurs, and elephants to create pages for an informative class book.

Grade Level: Developmental Kindergarten/Kindergarten

Arts Standards addressed:

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Other Subject Areas Standards addressed:

Kindergarten Science GLCES

- Identify that living things have basic needs (food, habitat, etc.).
- Identify and compare living and nonliving things

Kindergarten ELA GLCES

- R.IT.00.01
- R.IT.00.03
- R.IT.00.04
- R.CM.00.03
- R.CM.00.04
- W.GN.00.04

- W.PR.00.01
- W.PR.00.02
- W.PR.00.03

Instructional Outline:**Introduction:**

The students will be introduced to the Owosso mastodon by viewing pictures of the fossilized skeleton. The history of this mastodon, including the personal history to the teacher will also be discussed.

Classroom Management Strategy:

Students will be actively involved in this lesson through brainstorming, listening, creating the mastodon list, comparing and contrasting.

Prep Activity:

Each lesson day, students will begin by brainstorming what they know about the topic animal (mastodon, dinosaur, wooly mammoth, and elephant).

Main Activity:

1. Using informative texts and the internet the teacher will guide the students through learning specific characteristics of each animal (mastodon, wooly mammoth, dinosaur and elephant).
2. The students will discover: what each animal ate, where each animal lived, when each animal lived, what each animal looked like
3. The students will, after completing research about each animal, create collaborative classroom fact sheets to compare the mastodon to the dinosaur, wooly mammoth, and elephant.
4. Using the research gathered students will create a page for a classroom book about mastodons, mammoths, dinosaurs, and elephants.

Additional Information:**Materials Needed:**

Chart paper

Informative texts, or age-appropriate internet sites containing facts about mastodons, dinosaur (meat eater and plant eater—T-Rex and Stegosaurus), wooly mammoth, and elephant.

Markers

Large paper for student page of classroom book.

Outcomes/Assessment:

The students knowledge gained through research about mastodons, dinosaurs (T-Rex and stegosaurus), woolly mammoth and elephants and understanding will be assessed through the Venn diagrams they create as a class, and through the writing a collaborative informative, classroom book

Potential Challenges:

Finding information that is age-appropriate for Developmental Kindergarten students.

Explaining information at an age-appropriate level.

Resources

AtoZ Kid Stuff atozkidstuff.com

Eduplace.com/state/mi/mi_links.html

Museum.state.il.us/exhibits/larson/smilodon

Sdnhm.org/exhibits/mystery/fg_mastodon

Bbc.co.uk/nature/wildfacts/factfiles/3004

Members.cox.net/pyrophyllite/mastodon

Grandpa's Tooth A True Mastodon Story. Snyder-Downing, L. (2006).