



Native American Populations

LORI FINE

Grade: 2

Five Clusters

Divide class into five groups with five students in each group.

1. The Study of an Indian Tribe
2. The Study of Indian Traditions and Customs
3. The Study of Indian Dwellings
4. The Study of Indian Clothing, Jewelry, Ornamentation, and Daily Tasks
5. The Study of Animals and Foods in Indian Daily Life

Cluster 1

Preassessment:

What do you know about Indian tribes? Class Discussion.

Investigation:

1. How has the location of the tribe and the size of its homeland changed? Describe the land.
2. Did the Indians move? Why or why not?
3. How has the number of Indians in the tribe changed?
4. Describe a personal experience lived by the Indians.
5. Why do Native American Indians and Europeans have problems getting along?

Confirmation:

Students will investigate and answer the questions.

Application:

Locate tribes on a map of North America.

Assessment and Summary:

Class brainstorming session.

Extension:

After all reports and information sharing and analysis completed the class will decide how the Indians fulfilled their needs for food, shelter, clothing, and peace.

Cluster 2

Preassessment:

What do you know about Indian traditions, customs, beliefs, and language?

Investigation:

1. What are several Indian traditions?
2. How did these traditions survive?
3. How have Native Americans kept their close ties to nature, animals, and land?

Confirmation:

Students will investigate and answer these questions.

Application:

Create your own pow wow and dramatize a problem that our tribe is experiencing. Brainstorm and compare and contrast the problem and come up with a solution.

Assessment and Summary:

Class brainstorming session.

Cluster 3

Preassessment:

What do you know about the way the Indians lived?

Investigation:

A Study of Indian Dwellings

- Compare and contrast teepees, adobes, mesas, caves, and others.
- Why are these homes constructed so differently? (Include weather, water, animals, plants, mountains, enemies)
- Where did the Indians find the building materials?
- Are Indians still living the way they did in the past?
- Where do most Indians live today?
- Analyze the difficulty of the lifestyle.

Confirmation:

Students will investigate and answer these questions.

Application:

Build an Indian village.

Assessment:

Class brainstorming.

Cluster 4

Preassessment:

What do you know about Indian's clothing, jewelry, ornaments, and physical characteristics?

Investigation:

1. Describe clothing worn by Indians. Did they vary location to location and give reasons.

2. Why was jewelry so important to the Indians, especially when Europeans came to this country?
3. Describe the physical appearance of one tribe of Indians.
4. Describe the clothing worn by an Indian, choosing one of the four seasons. What does this tell us about the environment, terrain, climate, etc.

Confirmation:

Students will investigate and answer these questions.

Application:

Design a costume or jewelry worn by Indians. Use materials from your own environment. Be creative!

Assessment:

Class brainstorming

Cluster 5

Preassessment:

Do you know what Indians eat and how they get food? Do you know what animals they hunted and why? Do you know how they traveled?

Investigation:

1. What animals were important to the survival of Indians?
2. Were the Indians kind to animals?
3. What did the Indians eat?
4. Did they grow their own food?
5. How did herbs play an important part in curing sick Indians?
6. How did Indians travel from one place to another?

Confirmation:

Students will investigate and answer these questions.

Application:

Draw a mural of an animal hunt. Prepare an Indian menu for the class.

Assessment:

Class brainstorming

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR ALL CLUSTERS:

- Read:
 - trade books
 - stories
 - legends
 - fables
 - plays
 - videos
 - filmstrips
- Write:
 - a story about an Indian family
 - a legend
 - a poem
- Art Projects:
 - Collect photographs from magazines and create a colorful bulletin board
 - totem poles
 - make Indian jewelry (use beads, macaroni, paint, string)
 - design an Indian book
 - draw an Indian family
 - create an interesting design
 - mold a clay pot, bowl, vessel, or jewelry.
- Drama:
 - Perform class play, poems, etc.
- Create a museum in class:
 - Exhibit traditional Indian clothing and jewelry, instruments, artifacts, etc.

- Games:
 - Learn traditional Indian games
- Technology and Materials:
 - GTV
 - maps
 - glossary
 - encyclopedia
 - CD-ROM
 - Museum collections
 - records
 - videos
 - books
- Field Trips:
 - To museum
 - On nature walks
 - an Indian visitor to the classroom.



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