

Lesson Plan: CP6.11

Subject: Arts Education

Grade: Six

Date: Wed. October 25th, 2023

Topic: Animal symbolism and connections to artwork

Co-Teaching with Sabrina

Objectives:

Curriculum Outcome: CP6.11- Investigate and use various visual art forms, images, and art-making processes to express ideas about identity.

Indicators for this outcome:

(f) Observe, interpret, and discuss the use of symbols to represent ideas.

(h) Demonstrate how symbols and other images can be used to convey meaning (e.g., create a visual statement about personal and/or cultural identity).

Key Understandings: ('I Can' statements)

- I can recreate a drawing on a larger scale.
- I can identify the importance of the bear and raven as symbols in the indigenous culture.

Essential or Key Questions:

- Animals play a large role in indigenous culture specifically in storytelling. Can anyone tell us about the four animals in the medicine wheel teachings?
- What does it mean to be resilient?

Materials and Resources:

- Indigenous coloring sheets printed and cut into quarters (these are copied-use paper cutter at school)
- Blank letter sized paper for each student
- Pencils
- Pencil crayons or markers
- Some students may want to use a ruler or straight edge

Evidence for Learning (Assessment):

- The students will enlarge and reproduce their portion of the picture.
- Students will explain how they coloured/drew the picture to represent themselves.

Lesson specifics:

Sabrina will open with the first essential question and discussion.

“Animals play a large role in indigenous culture, specifically in storytelling.

Can anyone remember learning about the four animals we find in the medicine wheel teachings?

Spark some conversations around indigenous symbolism (specifically about animals). Move discussion to talk specifically about the symbolism of the raven and the bear:

The Raven is a fairly common bird in North America, when we see them we don't often think of them as anything special. But the indigenous culture teaches us that the raven is a symbol of resilience. What do you think it means to be resilient?

The raven can symbolize different things to different indigenous communities:

- Some say it symbolizes curiosity.
- Some think the raven symbolizes the unknown and shows that every person sees the world in a different way.
- The raven is known by some as the “keeper of secrets,”
- Ravens are often regarded as important messengers whose warnings tell of an impending danger or truth that must be faced, or somehow exposed.
- In some stories, they may be portrayed as sneaky or as a trickster. A trickster may be a character in a story that exhibits a great degree of secret knowledge and uses it to play tricks on others

Tyneal will transition to talk about the symbolism of the bear.

Spark some conversation about the possible symbolism and meaning of the bear.

- represents strength, family, courage and health.
- The bear is thoughtful and independent.
- The bear is also self-contained and strong-willed in nature.

- A bear is of great support and comfort to others, he makes lonely periods of life far easier.
- Known as the Protector of the animal kingdom. Warriors often wore bear claw necklaces as a symbol of protection.
- In some indigenous communities they treat the bear as a noble guest.

An animal can have many different meanings depending on where you live. There is no right or wrong way meaning...symbols can be personal and different to everyone.

Sabrina will introduce the art project

“When we were here last week we played this or that. We learned some really awesome things about you, like your favorite things to do, your favorite treats, we even learned that a lot of you enjoy art projects.”

- We are going to create an art project that can hang in your classroom.
- Show the original pictures of the raven and the bear (not cut up).
- Explain that everyone is going to get a quart of the picture to recreate on their own paper in a larger format.
- Use pencils, pencil crayons, markers (whatever you wish) to recreate your contribution to the picture.
- Distribute everything and give time to create.

Tyneal will wrap up the activity

- You can choose how to colour your piece. Your piece will represent you.
- Individually the pieces may not look like they make sense. But when we put them all together we can see the picture.
- You can see yourself in the picture. How you are a part of the masterpiece.
- We are going to put the pictures up in the classroom so you can see how you belong in the picture.

Indigenous Coloring Pages for Art Project

(Raven & Bear)

