

Arkansas History Lesson Plan

All about Arkansas

***Appropriate Grade Level–
Kindergarten**

***Author–
Betty Louise Wilson**

***District/School/Grade Level–
Magnolia Public Schools/ West Side/ Kindergarten**

***Enduring Understanding–
I know where I live, how it is shaped, and the objects that represent my state.**

***Essential Questions–
What do you enjoy about living in Arkansas?
Why do you think Arkansas is a great state to live in?
If you could change anything about Arkansas, what would you add to or change about it?
What is the most fun you ever had in Arkansas?**

***Student Learning Expectation from K-6 Social Studies Framework-**

Arkansas Social Studies Curriculum Framework:

G.1.K.3– Identify the state of Arkansas on a map of the U.S.

H.6.K.2– Identify state symbols of Arkansas- flag, tree, insect, and beverage

***Overview–**

Students will hear a story about the state of Arkansas which includes the shape of Arkansas, where it is positioned within the United States, and describes each Arkansas symbol. After the story, the facts introduced in the book will be reinforced with learning games and table activities.

***Lesson Objective–**

Children will be introduced to Arkansas' shape, flag and knowledge of where Arkansas is in relation to the rest of the world. They will also learn the insect, flower, beverage, and gem that represent Arkansas. These objectives will be taught through the book about Arkansas, which will be referred to often during the week. After the book is read to the children, they are asked to complete the sentence with the appropriate word as the teacher reads from the book, leaving the vocabulary word out. Ex: the Arkansas state gem is the _____. The next step is for the teacher

to show an illustration and have the children restate what information the page contains. The book is to be referred to many times during the week.

***Teaching Strategies–**

After saying the “Pledge of Allegiance” and following up with the song 50 Stars are on the Flag which ends with the words “and my state is Arkansas,” I will announce that this will be a special week in which we will learn all about the state that we live in. I will tell them that I have a special book about Arkansas that will teach them many special things about our state. After the book is read and discussed, the class and I will create a list of the many facts about Arkansas that we learned from the book. This chart will be posted on the board for reference.

After our group time, the concepts of the book will be the focus of our table work, which is a collection of worksheets I have collected throughout my teaching career. I have created them on Print Artist.

***Background Knowledge–**

The book includes all the information the teacher and children will need. Children will have a deeper understanding of where Arkansas is if they have been exposed to the concepts of address, neighborhood, town, county, and state.

***List of Materials–**

Arkansas book, chart paper and markers, and worksheets. Concrete representations of the symbols of Arkansas are preferred and more memorable with this age children. These include a milk carton, the branch of a pine tree, a stuffed honeybee, an artificial blossom (one can be made from tissue paper), some sort of deer, the Arkansas flag, costume jewelry with a diamond in it, etc. Pictures of these can be used as a substitution if objects are not available.

***Vocabulary–**

State, continent, fiddle, blossom, beverage, instrument

***Activities–**

Milk sentence building- Children cut out words and arrange them into the sentence– Milk is our state beverage.

Diamond color sheet– Children color the diamond the color of their choice and write the color word under the diamond.

Honeybee story starter– Children write a short story or sentence interpreting an illustration of two honeybees talking.

Creative Arkansas Flag– Children are given red paper, blue paper, and white die cut stars and allowed to make a creative Arkansas flag by studying the one displayed in class.