

# **Arkansas History Lesson Plan Template**

## **Natural Resources Used by Settlers on the Buffalo River**

**\*Appropriate Grade Level(s)**

**3rd grade Art Classes**

**\*Full name of author**

**Becki Jech Art Teacher**

**\*District/School/Grade level(s) taught**

**Harrison School District/Forest and Eagle Heights/ Grades K-4 Art classes**

**\*Enduring Understanding**

**I have an understanding about the importance of the Buffalo National River and why protecting its resources are so important.**

**\*Essential Questions**

**How did the Indians and the Pioneers use natural resources to live on the Buffalo River? What materials did they use and recycle for their well being on the river?**

**\*Student Learning Expectations from K-6 Social Studies Framework**

**G1.4.2, G2.4.1, G2.4.4, G3.4.2, G3.4.4, G3.4.5, G3.4.6, H6.4.1, H6.4.3, H6.4.10, H6.4.12, H6.4.22, E.8.4.3**

**\*Lesson Plan which must include all of the following:**

**\*Overview**

**Third grade art will discuss the Buffalo River and its Natural Resources. Third grade will discuss the use of the white oak tree for making baskets. Students will be shown samples of baskets made from the oak tree and how they were used along the river by the Indians and Pioneers. There will be a demonstration on the way oak splints are made into weavers and into a market basket and egg basket. Students will make a basket using the weaving technique.**

**\*Lesson Objective**

**The objective of the lesson is to be able to discuss and recall what we learn about the river's natural resources and how they were used in the lives of the settlers. The lesson objective is to be able to take a natural resource and create a work of functional art.**

**\*Teaching Strategies**

**Introduce the river by showing pictures of settlers, their pottery, baskets, log cabins, handmade tools, quilts, gardens etc. Discuss the seasons on the river and how it determines what is needed for a settler to survive. In groups write down what materials were needed to make tools, homes, pottery, baskets, gardens, etc. Discussion on why the white oak tree is selected. Demonstration of the steps from the oak tree to the end results of a basket.**

**\*Background information**

Discuss the river and the history of the area. Discuss wildlife and plants on the river. Watch a video of the river and how the river was protected and made a National River. Look at Art work of Arkansas artist as basket makers.

**\*List of materials**

Wooden basket bases with holes precut, round reed #5, round reed #3, plastic buckets for water, beads and feathers to decorate.

**\*Vocabulary:**

Natural resources protect, conserve, Buffalo River, recycle, handmade, oak splints, weavers, plaited, weave, wooden base, reed, ribs, shaper, splicing or overlapping, tucking in

**\*Activities**

The Park Service at Tyler Bend on the Buffalo has very good educational tour of the historical log cabins. They discuss the way the settlers used natural resources to live.

**\*Cross-curricular connections. Identify the content framework and SLEs.**

**Arkansas Social Studies Curriculum Framework:**

A1.3, A1.4, A1.8, A1.9, A2.4, A2.5, A2.7, A2.8, A2.9, A3.7, A3.9, ESS8.2.4

**\*Assessment**

The students will make a basket. In groups they will discuss the use of natural resources on the river and turn in a list of natural resources and their use to the settlers. This will be shared with the whole class. Teacher Observation, Demonstration, and Discussion

**\*Estimated time allotted for lesson**

Four hours or four 40 minutes classes

**\*Adaptations for special needs learners**

Special needs learners can participate and make this project to the best of their ability. They can weave yarn instead of reed around the frame of the basket. The softer material is easier to work with and will make a basket if the frame is already secure. They can listen and add to the conversation of natural resources with a group.

**\*Resources/bibliography**

Great video from the park service called Buffalo National Treasure.

Books in our libraries about pioneers and Indians on the river.

Any basket book an art teacher might have showing different styles of baskets.

The Basket Book by Lyn Siler. It shows baskets, and how they were used. It shows egg baskets, fish baskets, market baskets, weed baskets, etc.

**Pioneer Projects by Bobbie Kalman**

**Cherokee by Emilie Lepithiem**

**Garden Sass by Nancy McDonough**

**Trees of Arkansas by Dwight M. Moore (Ark. Forest Commission)**

**N is for Natural State by Michael Shoulder**

**The Ozarks by Richard Rhodes**

**Native American postcards (30) from Crizmac Art and Cultural Education catalog.  
Contains postcards of Indian pottery, baskets, hides, clothing, and weavings**

**\*Extension activity**

**Visit the river and study the river in their classrooms. Have the National River staff visit the schools and bring tools, pottery, baskets, etc. that were made on the river. Visit the Boone County Historical Museum and view pottery, arrowheads, tools, etc. found on the river. The artist at Mt. View has a very good workshop in the summer on basket weaving with white oak. Leon Jennings of Mt. View, old time basket weaver, is great source of information.**