

Arkansas History Lesson Plan

Visual Pictures of the Buffalo National River

*Appropriate Grade Level(s)

K-4 Art classes

*Full name of author

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*District/School/Grade level(s)

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

*Enduring Understandings

1. I know about the environment on the Buffalo River.
2. I know the history of the Indians and pioneers that settled a long the river.
3. I know the importance of protecting the Buffalo River.

*Essential Questions

- Why did the Indians and pioneers settle near the river?
- How can we protect the river for humans and the wildlife near the river?
- Why is it important that the Buffalo was kept a free flowing river?

*Student Learning Expectations from K-6 Social Studies Framework

Arkansas History frameworks that are addressed:

TCC1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5

PPE1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3

PPC1.6

SSPS1.4, 1.5

*Overview

This lesson plan is a semester of art using the Buffalo River as the theme of our unit. It is a cross-curricular unit using SLEs from Art and Arkansas History. Each grade has projects that involved the study of the river. Students at different grade levels create woven rugs, make baskets, creat pottery bowls, build log cabins, and construct teepees.

After discussing wildlife on the river the students draw pictures of animals, birds, plants, and reptiles in their environment on the river. The bulletin board is a work in progress of the river. Each grade adds to the river bulletin board as they learn something about the river they wanted to share. They draw what they learn and add it to the mural. Students discuss works of art by Arkansas artists, such as Tim Ernst, William McNamara, and Kate Nessler. Fourth grade makes a crayon collage of the river as a group project.

*Lesson Objective

The objective of each lesson is to visually express what we have learned about the river.

***Teaching Strategies**

When each grade displayed their art work about the river it was viewed and discussed by the other grades. By using hands on creative work the students learned about the Buffalo River and shared it with the rest of the school.

***Background information**

We discuss the river and the history of the area. We discuss wildlife on the river. We watch a video of the river and how it is protected and make a model of the Buffalo National River. We look at art work of artists who paint the river and the plants growing in and near the river. We discuss what would have happened if the river were not a free flowing river and why it is allowed to flow freely.

***List of materials**

We use many art supplies: basket reed, clay, yarn, yarn looms, basic art materials like crayons, paints, etc.

***Vocabulary**

Different vocabulary for different grade levels

***Activities**

All grades visits the River, log cabins on the river, and walk hiking trails.

***Cross-curricular connections: content framework and SLEs**

Arkansas Fine Arts Curriculum Framework: Art

A1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9

A2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9

A3.1, 3.4

***Assessment**

Art work is completed and discussed in groups.

***Estimated time allotted for lesson**

A whole semester of art classes meeting once a week or 16 lessons.

***Adaptations for special needs learners**

My special needs learners do what we do at their own creative ability.

***Resources/bibliography**

Great video from the park service called "Buffalo National Treasure" and books in our libraries about animals and plants.

Tim Ernst and McNamara's books with pictures of the Buffalo River.

***Extension activity**

Different grade levels visit the river and study the river in their classrooms. We also have the Buffalo National River staff visit our schools with birds and animals of the area.

