

LESSON PLAN GRAPHIC NOVELS

Name: Mary Pryor

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Needs Assessment:

This lesson will occur during the Chinese New Year, at the end of January or in February. Students will have been studying different countries throughout the 5th grade geography classes. Students will have been using the computers in the technology center that is adjacent to the library to copy images for reports during the course of the entire year. Students in the 5th grade are beginning to transition into middle school expectations. A study of ancient China is part of the curriculum studies for the 5th grade students.

Identification of Problems or Constraints:

There is a learning resource center (LRC) that has 5 large tables for student activities. This class will be the only class using the LRC at the time of the lesson. Adjacent to the LRC is the technology lab. There are 25 computers in the technology lab, and there are 25 students in this 5th grade class. There are 2 scanners. There is one color printer and one laser jet printer. All computers are hooked up to the printers. It is hoped that all computers are working at the time of this lesson. If the Library Media Specialist (LMS) anticipates that computer access will be a problem during this activity, then last minute adjustments will be made to the lesson plan. The teacher will tell each student that this assignment will be part of their grade for the week. Planning for this lesson occurred jointly with the 5th grade teacher and the LMS. Art activity supplies come from the allotted supplies designated for art projects. The LMS went to the art teacher before school and obtained the supplies. LMS will check a day before class is planned to see if the glue bottles are in working condition. If not, the LMS will purchase new glue bottles because glue bottles work best when they are almost full. Students can waste classroom time because they are trying to get glue out of the bottle.

Graphic Novel Resources:

Author: Cole, Joanna & Degen, Bruce

Illustrator: Degen, Bruce

Theme: Life in Ancient China

Title: Ms. Frizzle's Adventures Imperial China

Publisher: Scholastic Press

Copyright: 2005

ISBN: 0590108220

Target Grade Level: 5th Grade Geography

Book Summary:

After participating in a magic dragon parade for Chinese New Year, Ms. Frizzle and a group of 3 of her students together tour spots in ancient China where they participate in different scenarios and, at the story's end, the group returns home.

Activity Objectives:

Students will illustrate concepts about life in ancient China through composition of a poster done on one of five concepts. One poster will be foods of China; a second poster will be Chinese geography; a third poster will be Chinese New Year; a fourth poster will be inventions of the ancient Chinese people; a fifth poster will be for different kinds of Chinese pottery and precious rocks of jade; These posters will be put on display within the library as a sample of students' library learning activities.

Getting ready:

Supplies:

5 colored poster boards, each of a different color, plus several white posters
Enough slips of paper folded in half, one for each student, and on each paper a group number is written.

Magic Markers

Drawing paper

Many old copies of National Geographic magazine for cutting up illustrations

Pencils, pens, colored pencils

Library computer printers capable of searching the internet

2 printers, one a color printer and one a black and white printer

Computer paper

Scissors, paper cutter

Glue sticks and Elmer's glue bottles

Large tablets of writing paper so that drafts of design could be drawn

Clean up wipes for the students to clean up each of the work tables after the project

Vocabulary	Calligraphy	Capital cities of China: Beijing; Kaifeng; Forbidden City
Scroll	Rudder	Porcelain
Chinese New Year	Compass	Earthquake
Chinatown	Souvenirs	Jade
Kung Fu	Mulberry	Kowtow/Ketou
Chop Sticks	Cocoons	Mustard Greens
Barge	Great Wall of China	Rice Cakes
Emperor	Crossbow	Tangerines

Activities:

At the beginning of library time, the students receive a small folded sheet of paper with their assigned group number as they enter the Learning Resource Center. Students are told before and after the story that number is the group number and the students should sit at the library tables with other members of the group. The LMS has put sheets of stiff paper on each table with a number written on each sheet and the paper has been folded in half. These numbers correspond with the group number the students receive

Library Media Specialist will read the story aloud:

Cole, Joanna & Degen, Bruce. Ms. Frizzle's Adventures Imperial China (2005). Scholastic Press. Illustrated by Bruce Degen. LMS will then read the story a second time and this time the LMS will read the margin notes because the students will find in the margin notes the learning concepts that are the basis of the learning activity. LMS will explain that the pieces of paper will have a number on it and that is a group number. Students will work in groups according to the number. All number "1" students will work together; all number "2" students will work together in small groups, and so on.

Students will work on one poster according to their assigned groups. In total five posters will be made. One poster will be foods of China; a second poster will be Chinese geography; a third poster will be Chinese New Year; a fourth poster will be inventions that Chinese people devised; a fifth poster will be for different kinds of Chinese pottery and precious jade. Students may hand draw the illustrations on paper that they will then glue to the poster board. Students may also find illustrations on the internet and copy the illustrations to a word document, and then the students can print out the illustrations on the printer in the library learning lab. Students can type the captions for the posters using the word processing programs, or, students can hand draw the lettering. Students could also cut up old copies of National Geographic magazines if they wish.

Instructional Design:

Analyze Learners

The students are 5th grade students and they will have extensive knowledge of comic books. The concept of a graphic novel should be familiar to them because this book is very much like a comic book in that it is an easy reading book classification. There is one child of probable Chinese descent in this class, while the other children fit the standard racial characteristics of the district, i.e., 50% Caucasian, 25 % Black, 20 % Hispanic, and 5% undeclared. The 5th grade geography lessons cover world geography.

State Objectives (Activity Objectives)

NL-FL.K-12-12.2 Cultures

Gain Knowledge and Understanding of Other Cultures

Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studies

Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studies

Select Methods, Media and Materials (Getting Ready)

The book, Ms. Frizzle's Adventures Imperial China, will be read aloud to the students so that students will be able to understand the flow of the plot. The LMS will have printed out slips of paper with a number on each slip and these slips of paper will be folded. This is to ensure a random group of students who will work on their assigned poster. The LMS

will have checked the Index to the National Geographic Magazine that is in the reference collection to see if there are any articles on China. The LMS will then pull the issues that have articles on China for the students to use. There is a large collection of old National Geographic magazines in the LMC that are duplicate copies of the magazines held in the periodicals collection. The LMS only keeps issues of National Geographic for five years so the older issues that were weeded from the collection are used for art projects. Other issues of the magazine have been donated to the school through the years by parents or grandparents of children who attended this school. These magazines are used periodically for art projects where students can cut out the pictures and put the pictures in their reports. The art department houses the old issues of National Geographic.

Utilize Media and Materials (Activities/Teacher & Students)

The LMS will review the book prior to the students' visitation to the Library Media Center. Once the students arrive and assemble, the LMS will read the book twice. At the first reading the LMS will read the story of Ms. Fizzle's Adventures Imperial China. The first reading will carry the story line, while the second reading will explain the vocabulary concepts. A second reading will occur of this book, this time reading the margin notes so that students will become familiar with the vocabulary words that reflect the concepts necessary for the learning activity. The LMS will explain the purpose of the folded notes.

Require Learner Participation (Activities/Students)

All students will be assigned a group to work with in constructing the posters. Students may refer to this book as they are doing the learning activities. Students may also use the internet to get illustrations of the concepts. Students will be able to print off illustrations using one of two printers in the library. One of the printers available is a color printer. Students will be able to use the scanner in the learning center to scan materials they may find in other books. Students will have learned throughout the year how to find images, import the images to documents and print off images so as to create a printed document using the scanned images. Other students will find free drawing images easier than the computer work. Students will have a set amount of time to work on the posters and then when the time is up, students will explain the posters to the rest of the class and to the LMS and the teacher.

Evaluate and Revise

Teacher and the LMS will observe students during the reading of the story and the learning activity to determine if the students understand the concept of creating a poster on one of 5 concepts illustrated in the story.

Teacher and LMS will observe students to determine if they are participating and cooperating with each other. Success in the learning activity will be determined by using the criteria: number of correctly spelled words; appropriate illustrations for the concept; basic design of the poster is evident, i.e., use of color, placement of objects.

Teacher and LMS will discuss with the students how they should display the posters in the Library Media Center and that this display will be ongoing for the next few weeks in order to recognize the long days of celebration for Chinese New Year.

Teacher and LMS will discuss how the lesson progressed and determine if any changes should be made for the next time the lesson will be presented. The quality of the posters will be used as an evaluation of the lesson plan. If the posters were of poor quality the LMS will infer that the students had not learned the lesson very well or that the students did not have enough time for the project.

If the lesson plan proved to be successful, then other books published by the team of Cole and Degen could be used in the student's library time for to support geography lessons on ancient Egypt and history lessons on Medieval Europe. The art project would change with each lesson because the students would tire of making posters.