



Theme: Archaeology (Grades 3-5)

Post-Visit Activity #2 Oral History

Overview:

After visiting the Springs Preserve, students will understand the importance of oral history and the part it plays in uncovering our past. In this lesson, students will choose someone from their family who they would like to interview to learn more about the past and more about their family history.

Objectives:

- Students will research questions.
- Students will learn about the history of their family.
- Students will learn different types of questioning strategies.
- Students will present their projects to the class.

Materials:

- Camera (optional)
- Voice recorder (optional)

Activity:

1. Explain to students that they are going to learn about their past.
2. Have students think of a relative who would be able to inform them about their family past - it could be someone from out of town.
3. Have students brainstorm different types of questions to ask their relatives.
4. Indicate to the students that they are to ask questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer.
5. Have students prepare at least 10 questions ahead of time.
6. Discuss as a group who they would like to interview. Decide who would make the best interviewee and why.
7. Inform the students that they are to schedule a time with the person they are interviewing. The interview can be in person or by phone.
8. Emphasize to the students that they must be prepared ahead of time.
9. Have the students write out the ten questions leaving space for the answers.
10. Stress the importance of active listening.
11. You may choose to have students role play with their classmates before they interview a relative.
12. Offer the option of recording the interview. They may also choose to take a photograph.

13. Give students one week to complete their project.
14. Groups will present their projects to the class upon completion.

Discussion:

What did you learn about your family from this project? What surprised you the most? Would you choose a different person to interview? Why or why not?

Suggested Reading:

1. ***And It Is Still That Way, Legends Told by Arizona Indian Children*** by Byrd Baylor. A collection of traditional tales from the Indians of Arizona, arranged in the categories "Why Animals Are the Way They Are," "Why Our World Is Like It Is," "Great Troubles and Great Heroes," "People Can Turn Into Anything," "Brother Coyote," and "There Is Magic All Around Us."
2. ***Dancing Teepees; Some Poems of American Indian Youth*** by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve. Illustrated by Stephen Gammell. A collection of Sneve's verses, tribal songs and prayers and contemporary poets' works. Includes many tribes, such as Sioux, Dakota, Zuni, Navajo and others.
3. ***Ma'ii and Cousin Horned Toad; A Traditional Navajo Story*** by Shonto Begay. Illus. by Shoto Begay. A lazy, conniving coyote habitually takes advantage of his animal cousins until his cousin, Horned Toad, teaches him a lesson.
4. ***Motel of Mysteries*** by David Macaulay. Archeologists in the year 4022 dig up an old hotel and have their own interpretation about simple objects of our everyday life: toilets, toilet seats, etc.
5. ***Pima Indian Legends*** by Anna Moore Shaw. A collection of twenty-four stories which the author gathered from her relatives in the 1930's. Includes Pima, Yuma, and Apache. Good read aloud tales for children.
6. ***Right Here on This Spot*** by Sharon Hart Addy. Illus. by John Clapp. A boy takes a look back at what happened at his grandfather's farm from the Native Americans, Early Settlers, and the Civil War.
7. ***Singing America; Poems that Define a Nation*** by Philip Neal. Ill. by Michael McCurdy. Collection of poems with spirituals, anthems, and songs of the Pueblo and Sioux Indians.
8. ***That Tricky Coyote!*** by Gretchen Mayo. Tales from various tribes including Apache, Zuni, and Ute.
9. ***The Magic of Spider Woman*** by Lois Duncan. Illus. by Shonto Begay. Tells the Navajo tale of how a stubborn girl learns from the Spider Woman how to keep life in balance by respecting its boundaries.
10. ***The People; Indians of the American Southwest*** by Stephen Trimble. Interviews with people in fifty reservation communities and cities in the Southwest.