



Theme: Archaeology (Grades K-2)

Pre-Visit Activity #1 Clay Sculptures

Overview:

In this activity, students will learn about Southern Paiute traditions. They will then design representative clay models, demonstrating one of the daily activities of the Southern Paiutes. Students may choose to depict a father hunting for the family's food, a mother weaving a basket to gather berries, or a child making a necklace from the bones of an animal.

Objectives:

- Students will learn about the Southern Paiutes' cultural history.
- Students will choose an activity that conveys the Southern Paiutes' lifestyle.
- Students will create clay sculptures.

Materials:

- One 4x6 piece of cardstock per student (to use as a base)
- Sculpting clay (in earth tone colors i.e.: blue, brown, green, etc.)
- Toothpicks, one per student
- Traditional Native American music to be played in the background

Activity:

1. Give a description of the Southern Paiute culture after reading the page on this web site: <http://www.answers.com/topic/paiute>
2. Have students brainstorm ideas about what they imagine the Southern Paiutes doing in their everyday life (hunting, fishing, making jewelry/pottery, playing, running, gathering seeds, etc.). Write the ideas on a board so that they are visible for all students to see during their project.
3. Explain to students that they will be making clay sculptures representing one of the activities on the board.
4. Pass out card stock (to use as a base for the artwork), toothpicks, and clay.
5. Explain to the students that they can use toothpicks to mold the clay. They can also put toothpicks into clay sculptures, using them as spears, fishing poles, etc.
6. Have students title their artwork and display it in the classroom.
*Note: Have traditional Native American music playing in the background as students are making their sculptures so that they can be immersed in the project.

Discussion:

What did you learn about the Southern Paiutes that you did not know before you did this activity? What else would you like to learn about them? What activity is the person doing in your sculpture? Why did you choose that activity? Do the Southern Paiutes do the same activities that we do? What are some activities that you do that are the same or are not the same as the Southern Paiutes?

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.