

Growing Up WILD Lesson

Participant Name: Mary Lynn Carvour

Current Teaching Situation: Consultant and activities workshop presenter for home school families and enrichment learning/tutoring students in the community

Activity: Wildlife as Symbols (pg.60-61)

Identify opportunities within current program or curriculum to integrate lesson plan. This activity will work well within the framework of the Science Explorers Club I have planned for this year meeting in monthly workshops for home school families. The workshop will include students PK-6. This activity will target PK-1st grade with some adaptations included for older students. I plan to use this activity in the fall months, perhaps October or November.

Outline use of activity components:

1. Discovery Table: Encourage children to bring examples of wildlife symbols they have found and pictures or information about their favorite animals. Provide a variety of state and country symbols, magazines, etc. Chart vocabulary words. Make a Mighty Math graph of symbols found.
2. Expressive Activity: Fly Like a Bald Eagle suggested activity, talk about the Decorah eagles. What is the symbol of the United States? Also sing the State Song of Iowa and listen for symbols.
3. Discussion: What are Iowa's state symbols? Why do states use wildlife as symbols? Can we think of other things that use wildlife symbols (schools, groups, products, faith)? Are they realistic or unrealistic? What traits were they chosen for? Chart items.
4. Discovery Walk: Discuss observing animal traits (share my trip to the St. Louis Zoo.) Take a walk through the zoo to observe animal traits. What could they be symbols for? Look for examples of wildlife used as symbols. Take pictures with disposable cameras of animals or any symbols you observe on signs, gifts in gift shop, foods, etc.
5. Snack: Animal Crackers (and other foods with wildlife symbols?)
6. Storytime: Tom Turkey and Erik Eagle: Or How the Eagle Became the American Symbol by Sandra Calder Davidson and I Read Symbols by Tana Hoban
7. Explorers Art: Package Designers activity – choose a product and a wildlife symbol to create a package. It may be realistic or unrealistic. Older children may wish to create a character, mascot, or logo.
8. Writer's Notebook: Write about a wildlife symbol that you found or made up.
9. Author's Chair: Selected children share their writing.
10. Send home sheet with ideas, vocabulary words, books to read, etc.
- 11.

Identify local natural areas, parks, or guest speakers that could be included in activity.

Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines, IA – observe animal traits to choose as symbols

Zoo personnel may be available as guest speaker

Graphic artist or designer as guest speaker

Description of your outdoor exploration:

I would like to hold this activity at the Blank Park Zoo.

Identify additional preparation needed for exploration: Be sure students have clothes appropriate for the weather, prepare explorers kits, take cell phone, consider weather forecast, and arrange for a meeting area.

Draft 2 open-ended questions to encourage further student investigation:

What animal is the symbol of the United States? Why was the eagle chosen as a symbol?

Are there wildlife symbols for the state of Iowa?

Can you think of other wildlife used as symbols? Are there wildlife symbols for Christians?
When you look at an animal and study its traits, can you think of something it could be a symbol for?

List standards/benchmarks/concepts that were met using components taught.

My current teaching is not based on the Iowa standards and benchmarks, however, I do make connections with them when appropriate. Basic concepts met within the framework of my goals would be: scientific reasoning and exploration, problem solving, vocabulary, developing higher order thinking, writing, historical and community connections, spiritual connections and understanding, literacy, observing and recording, creative art and drama, environmental awareness and responsibility, language use & understanding, fine motor skills development, and more.

NAEYC Criteria: 2.A.07, 2.A.08, 2.A.10, 2.A.11, 2.A.12, 2.B.03, 2.B.04, 2.B.05, 2.B.06, 2.B.07, 2.C.03, 2.C.04, 2.D.03, 2.D.04, 2.D.06, 2.D.07, 2.E.03, 2.E.04, 2.E.05, 2.E.06, 2.E.07, 2.E.08, 2.E.09, 2.E.10, 2.E.11, 2.F.02, 2.F.03, 2.F.04, 2.G.05, 2.G.06, 2.G.07, 2.G.08, 2.J.01, 2.J.05, 2.J.06, 2.J.07, 2.K.02, 2.L.01, 2.L.02, 2.L.05, 2.L.08

Indicate any modifications you will make to the activity or components within. I will modify the suggested activities to be appropriate for multiple grade levels together and adapt materials to be most successful in a traveling classroom situation.

Indicate modifications/considerations for children with special needs:

These activities will be modified as needed for any students with special needs. Our location will be selected with ground level or easy access to the shelter area by ramp. Parents will be available at all time to assist with activities and special needs. Activities will be presented with multiple grade levels in mind, therefore special needs students will be welcome to work at their level. Sensory materials will be varied to provide learning experiences for students with differing capabilities and learning styles.

List age appropriate literature (books, periodicals, websites) that can be used as part of activity:

Fiction picture books:

The Great Race: The Story of the Chinese Zodiac by Dawn Casey

Tom Turkey and Erik Eagle: Or How the Eagle Became the American Symbol by Sandra Calder Davidson

When Clay Sings by Byrd Baylor

Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard and Florence Atwater

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

Non-fiction:

The Bald Eagle by Lloyd G. Douglas

Bald Eagle by Gordon Morrison

I Read Symbols by Tana Hoban

Our National Symbols by Linda Carlsom Johnson

Websites:

www.statesymbolsusa.org – state symbols

www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/National-emblem - national symbols

www.livingartoriginals.com/animal-symbols - excellent source of animal symbols and meanings

www.suite101.com/content/christian-symbols-meaning - source for Christian symbols

www.care2.com/causes/famous-decorah-eagles – Decorah eagles info

Magazines:

National Wildlife Federation magazines such as Ranger Rick, Your Big Backyard, and Animal Baby

National Geographic for Kids
Sports Illustrated for Kids

List activities that could be used as pre and/or post learning opportunities:

Pre-learning – send newsletter featuring our topic to explore for the month, include some facts, questions to consider, and words to learn. Include Home Connections ideas. Suggest finding some examples of wildlife as symbols

Post-learning – send home follow up sheet with ideas for activities, books to read, art and fun.