



Whoever You Are

Radix Elementary School

Grade Level:

Elementary

Estimated Time:

Approximately one class period per day for one week.

Day 1: 30 minutes

Day 2: 40 minutes

Day 3: 40 minutes

Day 4: 40 minutes

Day 5: 40 minutes

Connections to CEP's Eleven Principles:

Challenges and respects all learners (Principle 6)

Connections to Core Values:

Respect

Caring

Friendship

Compassion

Overview

This series of activities will help children to become familiar with other cultures and learn that people all over the world have things in common. Before beginning, the teacher should:

- Read *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox, a book that celebrates the differences in different cultures. Visit her web site at www.memfox.com.
- Get patterns for clothes from different cultures from www.makingfriends.com.
- Get words and actions for greetings from around the world from www.FactMonster.com.
- Gather books from the library on various cultures.

Printer Friendly

Lesson Objectives

- Students will understand that people all over the world experience the same pains and joys.
- Students will respect and honor the different life styles and customs of different cultures.
- Students will create a Venn diagram to show how they and a friend are alike and different.
- Students will identify different ways people greet each other around the world.
- Students will work in small groups to show greetings, shelter and clothing from the various cultures shown in the book.

Materials Needed

In addition to the items listed above, the following items are required.

- Maps of the world
- Art supplies
- Journals
- Computers with internet access

Procedures

Day 1: Do a “book walk.” Discuss how the pictures show different landscapes, etc. Read and discuss the book. Brainstorm a list to show events, occurrences, things that make them happy or sad. Children can respond in their journals and write on one of the topics.

Day 2: Reread the book. Have the children complete Venn diagrams showing similarities and differences between the children in the book and themselves. Children can also create Venn diagrams to show the similarities and differences between themselves and a friend. Children can write responses in their homework journal.

Day 3: Use a world map to locate the countries or cultures you have selected. Have the children work in groups to show the clothing and greetings from various cultures. Children can divide the tasks of making the doll,

showing the houses, coloring a map, and demonstrating the greeting. Children can use the internet or other references to find three facts about their region (may be done for homework).

Day 4: Students will present dolls made in groups. Children will demonstrate the greeting from their assigned culture. Have children respond in their journals: "Today I learned . . ."

Day 5: Brainstorm things that make us happy or sad. Brainstorm ways we can comfort people that are upset. Have children write list poems on what makes them happy or sad. Or children can write ways we can help others. (Use the link listed in the resources to help with the writing of list poems).

Assesment

- Use a rubric to assess list poems.
- Evaluate group presentations.
- Use a rubric to evaluate journal responses.

Extensions and Adaptations

- Extensions are endless including: mapping skills, reading theater, letter writing.
- Invite parents to come in to share travel or career experiences.
- An author study of Mem Fox's books, many of which have themes that can easily be used in character education lessons.

Related Links and Resources

Fox, M. *Whoever You Are*. San Diego, CA: Voyager Books (Harcourt, Inc.), 2001.

<http://www.everythingsl.net>

Information on greeting and National Hello Day

<http://www.factmonster.com>

Information on greetings and world maps

<http://makingfriends.com>

Patterns for Multicultural Friends

<http://memfox.com>

Information on the author and book

<http://ettcweb.lrk12.nj.us/forms/listpoem.htm>

How to write a list poem

Credit

The first grade staff at Radix Elementary, a 2007 National School of Character, wrote this lesson.