**Lesson Plan**



Animal Symbolism

Painting

**Art Educator**: Cynthia Cousineau

**School**: Concordia University

**Topic**: Storytelling & Animal Symbolism based on First Nations Culture, with the creation of cardboard paintings of specific animals.

**Population**: Age 7-11 **Rationale**: This lesson aims to foster cultural sensitivity in the students

**Learning Objectives**:

* To encourage natural storytelling and public speaking skills
* To gain a better understanding of Indigenous culture & foster cultural sensitivity
* To learn more about animals
* To foster independent research skills
* To practice painting and drawing skills

**Materials for Teacher:**

* Projector
* Laptop
* Radio (additional)
* Completed prototype of art project

**Materials for Students (\*=Bring to Class)**:

* Paintbrushes
* Cardboard paper
* Simple white paper
* Paint (black, white, and red)
* Scissors \*
* Pencil \*
* Glue \*
* Images of Animals from Native Art

**Art Form**: Drawing & Painting

**Technique**: Contour Line drawing & Acrylic Painting

**Vocabulary**:

Indigenous: origination from a particular place; native

First Nations: The first people who lived in North America before the Europeans arrived

Symbolism: The use of symbols to represent ideas, emotions and states of mind.

-Motif: A decorative image or design, which could be repeated to form a pattern

**Visual Arts Competencies:**

* To appreciate First Nations artworks
* To gain an understanding of the colors used in first nations art
* To draw animals as inspired by first nations art

**Cross-Curricular Competencies:**

* To learn about the First Nation Culture and history.
* To communicate a story appropriately.
* To use the resources available to them.

**Lesson Sequences & Motivation**:

Introduction:

* Show the class a short video about First Nation storytelling, followed about a PowerPoint on storytelling art.
* Introduce the topic to the students and discuss the needed materials.
* Inform the students about the techniques they will use for this project.
* Offer the students books or computer time to research an animal.

Demonstration:

* Using one of the templates with an animal form already on it, or picking a page from a book which features an animal show the class which animal you will create.
* Give the class an example of a mythological story with that animal and what the animal represents.
* One a piece of white paper to draw out the form of your animal and some basic motifs.
* Cut out the image and place it on a cardboard paper.
* Trace the image from the white paper to the cardboard paper.
* Cut out the cardboard paper to have the shape of your animal
* Paint the cardboard animal using the 3 colours of paint offered
* Show the entire class the finished animal, and leave it to dry

Work Time: 2 hrs

Clean-up: 10-15 minutes to put materials away and wash up.

Closure:

In the following class have students prepared to discuss their creation stories about the animals they constructed. Perphaps offer students a trip to a real gallary to see real works of First Nation Artists.



 

 **Adaptations for Diverse Learners**:

-Adapt the time required for the progect to fit the needs of all students. If students finish early they could start working on their story telling presentation.

**Assessment**

-Students will be evaluated on:

* originality of their animal
* use of motifs and patterns
* diversity of use of the 3 colours
* their story

**Resources:**

Websites:

Animal Symbology: S<http://shop.slcc.ca/node/>5

First Nations Art Projects: <http://www.ehow.com/info_7936841_first-nations-art-projects.html>

Videos:

Pacific Northwest Native Indian Art Carvings: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpqiPztQOY0>

Story Telling: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wm9AZ3x5fpw>

Teaching Story telling in the classroom: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrZc6eztoH4&list=PL6C773AD48C214F81>

Native American Relaxation Music: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kH8nsXpxlxU>