

SOCIAL STUDIES- GRADE 6

Exploring Community and Identity

IN6.1: Evaluate and represent personal beliefs and values by determining how culture and place influence them.



Essential Questions

1. How do cultural traditions influence our daily lives and decisions?
2. What role do language and communication play in shaping cultural identity and beliefs?
3. What similarities and differences can we find between our beliefs and those of other cultures?



Students will Know...

- How culture shapes personal beliefs, values, and identities, recognizing the significance of their own cultural backgrounds and the influence of their environments.
- How to respectfully express their beliefs and values through appreciation for cultural diversity and understanding of different cultures.



Students will Understand...

- That their identities are influenced by their culture and surroundings, and that these factors shape their beliefs and values.
- That participating in cultural activities, like art and traditional games, helps express who they are and encourages appreciation for different backgrounds.



Students will Do...

- Students will work together on projects that celebrate cultural diversity, allowing them to learn from one another while combining their unique perspectives and values.
- Students will engage in discussions and activities that encourage them to see the world through others' cultural lenses, helping them develop empathy and a broader awareness of global perspectives.

The Main Concept



Lesson 1: Social Studies Understanding Culture and Place

HOOK: Create a quick, fun quiz with statements about various cultures (e.g., In this culture, it's common to greet with a kiss on both cheeks or This culture celebrates the harvest with a festival.

Objective: Students will explore how culture and place shape personal beliefs and values.

Activities:

Discussion: Start with a class discussion about culture and place. What does culture mean? How does where we live influence our beliefs?

Research Project: Each student selects a culture (local or global) and researches its values and beliefs, focusing on aspects like traditions, language, and customs.

Presentation: Students present their findings in small groups, discussing how the culture's environment influences its values.

Assessment: Group presentations and a reflective journal entry on what they learned about the connection between culture, place, and personal beliefs.



I Can...



- **define** culture and explain how it influences my beliefs and values
- **create** an artwork that represents my personal beliefs and values
- **reflect** on how my culture influences my views on health and wellness
- **participate** in traditional games from various cultures and understand their significance.

Cross-Curricular Outcomes



Lesson 2: Arts- Visual Representation of Beliefs

CR6.2- Investigate and identify ways that the arts can express ideas about identity

Connection to the main concept: Students will create artwork that represents their own beliefs and values influenced by their culture and place.

Activities:

1. **Art Discussion:** Explore how different cultures use art to express beliefs and values. Show examples from various cultures.
2. **Creation of Personal Art Piece:** Students create a piece of art (drawing, poem, song) that symbolizes their beliefs and values. Encourage students to incorporate elements that reflect their cultural background or local environment.
3. **Cultural Festival:** Organize a mini cultural festival where students can set up booths to display their artwork, poems, or songs. They can also include food, music, and traditions from their cultures to create an immersive experience.



Lesson 3: Health - The Role of Culture in Well-Being

USC6.1- Analyze the factors that influence the development of personal standards and identity, and determine the impact on healthy decision making (including cultural norms, societal norms, family values, peer pressures, mass media, traditional knowledge, white privilege, legacy of colonization, and heterosexual privilege).

Connection to the main concept: Students will analyze how cultural practices influence health beliefs and behaviors.

Activities:

1. **Discussion:** Introduce the concept of holistic health, including physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being. Discuss how culture can influence health practices.
2. **Guest Speaker:** Invite a community member or an Elder to discuss cultural health practices (e.g., traditional medicine, dietary customs). Remember to offer tobacco to the Elder.
3. **Reflection Exercise:** Students create a slogan that captures the impact of their cultural background on their well-being and then share their thoughts in small groups.



Lesson 4: Phys Ed - Cultural Games and Activities

PE6.15- Examine, evaluate, and represent the historical and present impact of our World neighbors on the development of movement activity options as a means of supporting the well-being of self and others.

Connection to the main concept: Students will engage in physical activities from different cultures and reflect on how these activities promote values and beliefs.

Activities:

1. **Introduction to Cultural Games:** Present various traditional games or sports from different cultures
2. **Physical Activity Session:** Students participate in a series of games from different cultures, discussing the values (teamwork, respect, perseverance) that these activities promote.
3. **Group Reflection:** After the activities, students discuss in small groups how the games reflect cultural beliefs and how these experiences shape their own values around teamwork and competition.