

Topic: diversity, comparing/contrasting

Overview:

Students will compare and contrast each other to find out their similarities and differences. Students will use PDAs to draw a portrait of themselves. Prior to this lesson, students will have had experiences with the PDAs and the document camera.

Grades 2-3

Time Allotment:

One 45-50 minute lesson

Learning Objectives

On completion of this lesson students will be able to:

- Understand what *diversity* means in relation to people in their lives
- Gather and classify information
- Complete a written passage about themselves
- Use a variety of media and formats to communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences.

This lesson addresses Va. SOLs Language Arts 2.3, 2.11, 2.12; Social Studies 2.12; Computer/Technology C/T K-2.3, C/T K-2.7.

Media Components

- Video: America-A Land of Many People. Unitedstreaming, 2003. 18 March 2007. <http://www.wvpt.unitedstreaming.com/index.cfm>
Segment used: Segment 1 – What is Diversity? (1:47)
- SmartBoard
- LCD Projector or other projection device
- PDAs (handhelds)

Materials and Student Handouts

- PDAs (handhelds)
- Pencil per each student
- Sheets of notebook paper

Teacher Preparations

- Set up SmartBoard and projection device
- Download, preview, and cue video clip
- Reserve or gather all equipment needed
- Teacher developed rubric to score the culminating activity based on students' current level of writing

Introductory Activity

Focus: There are billions and billions of people in the world. Do you think everyone is alike? Or is everyone different? Take a look around the room. Do all of your classmates look like you or are they different?

Activity: Pair students together, make sure they each have their pencil, and give each pair a piece of notebook paper. Have them list similarities and differences about themselves on the paper. How they want to record the data is up to the pairs. Some ideas might include a Venn diagram or a T-chart. Allow ten minutes to complete the activity.

Follow-up: What did you find out about each other? Are you alike in any way? Are you different in any way? Is it good to be different? Why or why not?

Learning Activities

Focus: Write the word diversity on the board and say it aloud. What do you think diversity means? Pause for some answers and record them on the board. We are going to watch a video clip about diversity. In it, America is compared to a mixed salad. Watch to determine what that means.

Play: Segment 1 – **What Is Diversity?** (1:47) starting from the beginning of the clip

Stop: at 1:47, after the narrator says “making a whole delicious salad.”

Follow-up: Have students explain why America is compared to a mixed salad. Extend discussion by asking: how is our room like a mixed salad.

Culminating Activities

Focus: How do you introduce yourself to someone you don’t know? Share some introductions of famous people. Be sure to include some common aspects such as birthday, job, accomplishments, education, hobbies, etc. Ask students what they remember from the video clip about diversity.

Activity: Pass out the handhelds. Ask students to create a likeness of themselves using the program “Make a Face”. To accompany their likeness, student are to write an introduction about themselves including their goals as an adult (What do you want to be when you grow up?)

Follow-up: Allow time to share their intros in small group. OR have students trade papers and allow a peer to share the intro challenging other classmates to figure out who the intro is about.

Assessment

- Student participation
- Score the writing on the culminating activity using a teacher developed rubric.

Community Connections

- Have another class complete the same activity and pair students together to complete a Venn diagram.
- Post children’s “Make a Face” pictures on the classroom website (no names)

Cross-Curricular Extensions

Math

- Students can create graphs based on similarities and differences found in the classroom.

Language Arts

- Students can write a brief paragraph about themselves to go with their picture.

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Social Studies

- Research Ellis Island to determine some of the reasons for their immigration and some of the hardships faced by them when they arrived.

About the Author:

Dana Zeh is a second grade teacher at Ladd Elementary in Augusta County, Virginia.

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