

How Rabbit Got Wisdom

Grade Levels: Pre-K - Kindergarten

Subject: Reading

Oklahoma Academic Standards | English Language Arts

PK.1.R.1-4 Write narratives in which they recount a sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order (e.g. cause and effect relationships), and provide a sense of closure.

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Lesson Summary

This lesson covers the Muscogee (Creek) folktale “How Rabbit Got Wisdom” on pages 25-28 located in “The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales” by James Bruchac & Joseph Bruchac, Ph.D., a book provided in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Educational Trunk. The objective of this lesson is to present a Native American folktale to students that convey the culture of the Msvkoke people and their wisdom to survive as a nation. The story introduces students to the heritage and history of the Msvkoke people.

Disclaimer: The contents of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Teacher Fellowship, Lesson Plan Project were developed under grant PR Number S415A150008 awarded by The U. S. Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education and should not be assumed to be endorsed by the Federal Government. Additionally, recognizing the complex history of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, State Tribal Education Partnerships (STEP) and Cultural Education Resource Council (CERC) made the determination to use the information herein. The lesson plans can be used to educate students and teachers about Muscogee people and history as they relate to the current Oklahoma Academic Standards. The information chosen is not to diminish other aspects of our history or notable people, nor does it imply the information within the lesson plan is the primary source of knowledge. However, it means that a consensus on what to be represented and that the compilation of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Teacher Fellowship Lesson Plans was a CERC committee decision. We are confident as we continue to cultivate and scaffold our tribal educational resources, the lesson plans will develop into a more comprehensive tool to be used in support of the Muscogee studies public school curriculum.

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Grade Levels: Pre-K - Kindergarten

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Oklahoma Academic Standards | English Language Arts

PK.1.R.1-4 Students will develop and apply effective communication skills through speaking and active listening.

ENGAGEMENT/HOOK

- Describe how the teacher will capture students' interest.
- What kind of questions should the student ask themselves after the engagement?

Introduce the book "The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales" by James Bruchac & Joseph Bruchac, Ph.D., to the students highlighting the story *How Rabbit Got Wisdom* on pages 25-28.

To engage students and hook their interest in the story, present stuffed animals from the story characters to share details about them with the students.

Questions for discussion:

What do you know about any of these animals? Have you ever seen any of them in person? Where do you think they live? What do they eat?

EXPLANATION (Teacher models)

- Student explanations should precede the introduction of terms or explanations by the teacher. What questions or techniques will the teacher use to help students connect their exploration to the concept under examination?
- List higher order thinking questions which teachers will use to solicit student explanations and help them to justify their explanations.

ELABORATION

- Describe how students will develop a more sophisticated understanding of the concept.
- What vocabulary will be introduced and how will it connect to students' observations?
- How is this knowledge applied in our daily lives?

Explain the meaning of the story by emphasizing everyone can achieve anything they set to their minds. Although we may be weak and small, we are all unique and special in our own way.

Read to students: "The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales - How Rabbit Got Wisdom" (pp. 25-28) by James Bruchac & Joseph Bruchac, Ph.D.

Elaborate on how the story relates to our lives today. We are all important. We all have a brain to use our minds wisely. We are all smart. We have special talents and we know we will all learn.

We can apply this to our everyday lives by knowing that we are very smart. We need to think about things before we do it. Explore your surroundings and learn everything you can, so you can be the Master of Life.

New vocabulary words and phrases learned:

Wisdom
Sunning
Hiss
Master of Life
Small and Weak
Folktales

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EXPLORATION

(Guided/Independent Practice)

- Describe what hands-on/minds-on activities students will be doing.
- List “big idea” conceptual questions the teacher will use to encourage and/or focus students’ exploration.

Students color pictures of the animals, graph what animal they like best, then count to see what animals they like the least and best.

CLOSURE/EVALUATION

(Pre/Post-Formal/Informal Assessments)

- How will students demonstrate that they have achieved the lesson objective? How will you know they met the objective/learned the lesson?
- This should be embedded throughout the lesson as well as at the end of the lesson.

Ask students open-ended questions, for example:
 What do you think about each of the animals identified in the story?
 Which animal would you like to be? Why?

Give students the empowerment that whatever they set to their minds, can be accomplished.

- *Math- Count the animals in the story.
- * Social Studies- Process and literacy- skill standard 2.3 use a combination of drawing and writing to narrate a single event or severely loose linked events.
- *Science- all animals need food in order to live and grow. Animals obtain food from plants and animals.
- * Art- Children can color their own animals from the story.
- * Language- Creek words and English words.

What does wisdom mean to you?
 Who is the Master of Life? What is sunning?
 Small-Smaller-Smallest-Weak-Weaker-Weakest. What is Folktale?

Materials Needed:

Stuffed animals, paper, pencils

Sources:

The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales by James Bruchac & Joseph Bruchac, Ph.D.

KWL chart - construction paper for the graph, coloring.