

Lesson plan

Author:

Dorina Marin

Lesson title:

International traditions and customs

Lesson brief description:

This lesson introduces younger students to the importance of inclusion and multiculturalism by exploring the concept of respecting and appreciating differences in cultures. Through fun activities and group discussions, students will learn about diversity and practice kindness and inclusion.

Time (Lesson duration):

45 minutes

Methodology: (group, individual, peer assessment, brainstorming, etc...)

Group work, individual reflection, storytelling, visual aids, collaborative games;

Materials needed:

- Pictures or videos of diverse cultures (food, clothing, celebrations, etc.);
- A world map or globe;
- Paper, crayons, or markers;
- Handouts with simple vocabulary words (diversity, inclusion, respect);
- Stickers or small rewards for participation.

Students' age:

8-11 years old

Aims/Goals or SWBATs (Students will be able to.....)

- Recognize and appreciate different cultures and backgrounds;
- Understand what inclusion means and why it is important;
- Participate in activities that celebrate diversity and kindness.

Lead-in *What's going to happen here to introduce your students to the topic?*

(Time: 5 minutes):

The teacher will show a colorful picture book or a short video that highlights diverse cultures, festivals, and celebrations from around the world. Students will be encouraged to discuss what they saw and share what makes each culture unique. This helps students understand that the world is full of different people, each with their own special customs.

What key-concepts could teachers focus on? What needs to be pre-taught? Time:60 min

Key-concepts to focus on:

- Diversity;
- Respect for others;
- Inclusion;
- Kindness.

Pre-taught material (if needed):

- Simple definitions for terms like "inclusion," "diversity," and "respect" (e.g., „Inclusion means everyone is welcome and treated kindly“).

List of activities with brief description of each one and time for each one:

Activity 1: “What Makes Us Unique?” (Time: 10 minutes)

- Each student will be given a sheet of paper and crayons/markers to draw something that makes them unique (e.g., a special tradition, their favorite food, or a hobby they enjoy). Afterward, students will share their drawings with the class, explaining why they chose it. This activity promotes self-expression and celebrates differences.

Activity 2: “Inclusion Charades” (Time: 10 minutes)

- The teacher will prepare a few simple scenarios that demonstrate inclusion or exclusion (e.g., "A new student is invited to play with the group" or "A student is left out of a game"). Students will act out the scenarios, and the class will discuss how inclusion makes everyone feel happy and respected. This activity helps students understand the concept of inclusion through role-play.

Activity 3: Diversity Puzzle (Time: 10 minutes)

- The teacher will provide a large puzzle with pieces representing different cultures, traditions, or types of people (e.g., pictures of different foods, clothing, or places). As a class, students will work together to put the puzzle together. This emphasizes the idea that many different parts (cultures) come together to make the world a beautiful, diverse place.

Activity 4: Group Reflection (Time: 10 minutes)

- Students will sit in a circle and share one thing they learned about inclusion and multiculturalism. They will also say one thing they can do to make others feel included in their school or community. This allows students to reflect on the lesson and think about practical ways to be inclusive.

What are other follow up (or homework) activities that can be included?

Follow-up/Homework activities:

- Homework: Ask students to draw a picture of a celebration or tradition from another culture or their own culture and share it with the class the next day.
- Extension: Have students write a short story or poem about how they would include others who are different from them.

What methodology / activities are used for assessment?

- *Observation: The teacher will observe students during group activities and discussions, ensuring they are participating and understanding the concepts of inclusion and diversity.*
- *Classroom participation: Students will be assessed based on their involvement in the “Inclusion Charades” and group reflection.*
- *Creativity: The students' drawings and contributions to the puzzle activity will reflect their understanding of diversity.*

Other thoughts about this lesson plan:

- Keep the language simple and clear to ensure all students understand the concepts.
- Use positive reinforcement (e.g., stickers, praise) to encourage participation.
- Create a welcoming, supportive environment where every student feels safe to share.
- If possible, invite students from different cultural backgrounds to share their experiences or traditions with the class.