

PROJECT #1

THE ART OF STORYTELLING – A CALENDAR STICK



These activities give your class the opportunity to create desert inspired art projects that compliment the grade's theme. Initiate class discussions with students regarding their choices and experiences before and after creating the piece. Included is a suggested bulletin board idea for your class to participate in as a group.

PREP:

Discuss with the students what means of recording a community's history could be. Have students make suggestions, then introduce the calendar stick. A Native American tool used by different cultures to record history. Have students research the topic. Give the idea that a calendar stick can be made for the class to record and preserve their history as a group throughout the year or as an individual project for each student to record their family history.

MATERIALS:

Flat, wooden stick – saguaro rib, paint stirrer/student

Paper and pencils for planning

EXPLAIN AND DISCUSS KEY TERMS WITH STUDENTS:

Mnemonic – devices used to aid in memory retrieval

Symbols – are objects, characters, or other representations of ideas and concepts

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- 1. Discuss with the students the significance of calendar sticks as mnemonic devices and how they help the community/village remember significant events in the life of the group.
- 2. Discuss the uses of saguaro ribs such as building materials, fencing, and tools. Discuss how this wood is used as a calendar stick in many communities.
- 3. Let students discuss and write down some of the events that have happened to them as a group their "classroom history".
- 4. Discuss different symbols/icons that could be used to record each significant event and when new symbols could be added. Have the students first create their symbols on paper. Plan the placement of symbols on their calendar stick and decide whether space will be left for future events.
- 5. Prepare the stick. Sand the stick if there are splinters. Put a hole in one end and thread with string for hanging the stick.
- **6.** Transfer the symbols to the classes' calendar stick using permanent markers.
- 7. Discuss where the calendar stick should be kept and who will be the storytellers for the group.



PROJECT #2

DESIGN A
SOCIAL AREA



These activities give your class the opportunity to create desert inspired art projects that compliment the grade's theme. Initiate class discussions with students regarding their choices and experiences before and after creating the piece. Included is a suggested bulletin board idea for your class to participate in as a group.

PREP:

Discuss with students what kinds of social areas they could make to use as a community storytelling location. Direct the discussion to the idea of a Ramada or a roundhouse used by some Native American communities. Discuss the functions of a Ramada or roundhouse. Ramadas are good group locations for seeking shade, doing work such as grinding seedpods, and sleeping in the summer. Roundhouses offer more protection from the cold and may be good locations for sleeping in the winter or socializing. Using materials from the students' school yard or home "habitat" build one of the structures and then use it as a social area for students to tell about their calendar sticks.

SUGGESTED MATERIALS:

blankets, sheets, towels tents

IN THE CLASSROOM:

Using the material from their "habitats" let students build one of the structures discussed. When built, use as a "social area" for the students to gather and share stories they have created with their calendar sticks.



BULLETIN BOARD



GROUP ACTIVITY OR BULLETIN BOARD IDEA:

Have students create a board using plants that they use in their everyday lives. Show what uses the plants have (medical, food, shelter, tools, etc.) and how the students use them in their everyday lives. Examples include cotton for clothing, vegetables for food and for seeds.

ARIZONA STATE STANDARDS

Art Standards

Intermediate Visual Arts

S1C1: PO 201. Contribute to a discussion about ideas for his or her own artwork.

PO 202. Make and explain revisions in his or her own artwork.

PO 203. Develop plans for his or her own artwork. (e.g. sketches, models, and notes.)

S1C2: PO 201. Identify and experiment with materials, tools and techniques <u>appropriately and expressively</u> in his or her artwork.

PO 202. Demonstrate purposeful use of materials, tools, and techniques in his or her own artwork.

S1C3: PO 201. Identify, select, and use *elements* and *principles* to organize the **composition** in his or her own artwork.

S1C4: PO 201. Explain purposeful use of subject matter, **symbols**, and/or **themes** his or her own artwork.

PO 202. Create an artwork that serves a function.