

Curriculum Title:
American Heritage, Community and Kentucky History

Arts Organization: Cincinnati Playhouse

School: Grants Lick Elementary

Grade: K and 3/4

Academic and Classroom Goals:

State of Kentucky standards:

Grades 3-4: G5-SS-E.4.1.4.

G8SS-E-4.2.1

K: H3 PS SS-E 5.1.3

Arts Content Goals:

Create and perform:

AH-E- 3.1.41, AHE-3.1.42, AH-E 4.1.41, AH-E- 3.1.43, AH E 4.1.42

Overview:

In the winter/spring students will study Kentucky history and community. The units of study will be divided into two areas. Students will design and build set pieces representing significant items in Kentucky history (caves, log cabins,). The Playhouse assistant technical director will facilitate this. A teaching artist will then explore various historical events with the kids and teachers and create an improvised script focusing on Kentucky history utilizing the set pieces that were created. A performance of the script will conclude the work.

Research Question:

Can Kentucky history be “experienced” through acting and set building?

Can we recreate history in a modern gym?

Brief Step by Step Art Integrated Activities including date/goals:

2/16/05 Assistant technical director Veronica Bishop met with all students to begin designing set pieces that they would want to use in their performance.

Students were required to bring in research they had done with their teachers prior to the visit by the artist. A comprehensive list of set items was prepared for the next visit.

3/4/05 Ms. Bishop returned with pre-cut set pieces of a log cabin, split rail fence, stone fence, cave structure and foliage. The students began assembling the structures under her guidance.

3/11/05 With most structures completed the classes focused on painting their set items. All set pieces were completed by the end of this session. In general the students not only discovered how theatrical

scenery is constructed they produced a physical life for their discovery of history. That history now sat in their gym

3/28/05 Teaching artist Michael Kenwood Lippert met with all classes and spent his first session exploring the art of theatre applying terms used in the Kentucky standards: role playing, plot, dialogue, mimicry, improvisation, storytelling, scenery, costumes, props and music. Students and teachers shared their knowledge of Kentucky history so that a scenario could begin to develop for a short theatre piece.

3/29/05 Continued exploration of Kentucky history in preparation of a script.

3/31/05 The goal here is to get a finished scenario and integrate the set pieces into the story.

4/1/05: Students will begin blocking out their scenes uses the set pieces. The rehearsal will be videotaped so teachers can continue to rehearse after the teaching artist is gone.

4/8/05: Students will perform their Kentucky history pieces for other students, teachers and parents. Time: TBD

Extended Activity Designed by Teaching Artist – Taught by Classroom Teacher

Teachers will rehearse with students after Mr. Lippert has finished. It is essential they rehearse with them using Mr. Lippert's approach and guidelines.

Field Research from Sources Outside the School:

Teachers used the following resources:

Kentucky: State Activity Book
Kentucky – The Bluegrass State
Let's Discover Kentucky (CD Rom)
Frontier Kentucky
If You Grew Up With Abe Lincoln
Daniel Boone

Assessment used for this Unit:

Assessment procedures from the fall were applied to this unit. The only exception was a mural created each day where the students drew an image of what they learned that day.

Reflections from Teaching Artist, Teachers, Students and Parents:
See notes from fall

Authors (Teaching Artist and Teacher)
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Date:
3/31/05

Art Links Integrated Curriculum Unit
Curriculum Unit Form 8-27-04