

Curriculum Unit Title

Writing and Sculpting Using Native American Storytelling and Symbols

Author

Courtney Cleghorn

KEY LEARNING, ENDURING UNDERSTANDING, ETC.

The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts-Literacy-Writing that are covered in this unit are for 3rd through 5th grade. The standards that are for 3rd-5th grade include: ELA-W.3.3, W.4.3, W.5.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences. ELA-W.4.3. A, W.5.3.A. Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S) for the UNIT

How can students use Native American symbols to write about themselves?
How will the students use Native American Stories to decide what symbols represent them and their life experiences?

CONCEPT A

CONCEPT B

CONCEPT C

Storytelling

Developing Characters

Native American Symbols

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS A

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS B

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS C

What is Storytelling? Why is storytelling an important part of Native American Culture?

Who are the characters in your story?
What character traits will they have?

How will you use Native American symbols to illustrate / sculpt your story? What symbols will you use to tell about you?

VOCABULARY A

VOCABULARY A

VOCABULARY A

Storytelling Culture

Character traits

Symbols

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/MATERIAL/TEXT/FILM/RESOURCES

How the World Was Made a Cherokee Story, by Brad Wagnon and Alex Stephenson.
The Coming of Corn from the book *Native American Stories*, told by Joseph Bruchac. *How the Buffalo Came to Be* from the book *The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales of the World*, retold by James Bruchac & Joseph Bruchac, Ph.D., illustrated by Stephano Vitale. *Three Native Nations* by John Manos, *Kokopelli Drum in Belly*, illustrated and interpreted by Gail E. Haley, *The Land of the Great Turtles*, by Brad Wagnon and Alex Stephenson
Other things that will be used: paper plates, modeling clay, colored pencils or markers.