Native American Languages Lesson Plan

Summary

Content Area Social Studies/ELA

Grade Level Grade 1/2

Topic / Unit of Study Native American Language / Endangered Languages

Objective Students will be able to:

- Understand that language is an essential element of culture.
- Understand the concept of endangered languages and that many indigenous languages are becoming endangered.
- Understand the importance of keeping indigenous languages alive.

Duration 60 Minutes

Implementation

Materials

- Playground linguistic panel
- Access to online research resources

Instruction

1. Assess prior knowledge by asking students why languages are important to a culture.
2. Ask students if they can name any Native American tribes and which were native to the local area.
3. Discuss the concept of a endangered language and the reason that many indigenous languages are endangered. Explain the importance of keeping Native languages alive and preserving culture.
4. Gather around the playground linguistic panel.
5. Explain that some languages are not written, and symbols can be used in place of written language.
6. Guide students in pronouncing the vocabulary words on the linguistic panel. Discuss why the terms depicted would be important for communication among Native tribes.
7. Return to the classroom. Divide students into small groups and assign a Native language to research.
8. Guide students to research 4-5 words in their assigned language that would be important for daily communication. Use the Indigenous Language Research Guide for assistance.
9. Ask each student to present their findings to the class.

Assessment

1. Students will work collaboratively, with guidance, to research indigenous languages.
2. Students will verbalize the concept of a endangered language and why it is important to keep indigenous languages alive.
3. Students will present their findings to the class in a clear, coherent manner.

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