

Title

All my Relatives.

Grade

Any.

Theme

Family Relations in Lakota Culture.

Duration

50 minutes.

Goal

Foster understanding of Lakota kinship.

Objectives

Students will be able to 1) Identify family members in the Lakota language, and 2) Explain the concept of kinship and connection inherent in calling someone by a family member's title.

Cultural concept

Kinship and Language

Cultural background

In addition to having words for family members, these Lakota words also identified complex relationships among members.

Student Activities:

1. Introduce kinship words by ... (10 minutes).
2. Break students into groups of 3-4. Give each group a blank family tree of the Simpsons. Students are to label each family member, using multiple words if necessary, along with arrows to indicate who would call whom what (10 minutes).
 - a. Example:
Lisa would call Bart "*Tiblo*." Therefore students would draw an arrow from Lisa to Bart and label it "*Tiblo*."
3. As a class, have the students complete the tree on an overhead version or white/blackboard (5 minutes).
4. Next, each student will individually make their own family tree (10 minutes). Everyone hands them in.
5. Finally, have a few volunteers (or victims) present (5 minutes).
6. Next, offer a visual and explanation of Lakota extended family and how the words they are called determine the relationship. Lakota families are even more tight-knit and expansive because of who qualifies as "family" (5 minutes).
7. As an exit activity, have students write about how they think the names/titles we give people affect our/their relationships. For example, would your relationship be different with your aunt if you called her "mom"? How would life be different if we adopted a model more similar to the Lakota? (5 minutes)

Resources

Lakota family tree; Simpson family tree; Paper and colors for tree creation.

Maynard, E., & Twiss, G. (1970). [Excerpt from Kinship system]. In *Hechel lena oyaate kin nipi kte: That these people may live* (pp. 115-118). Community Mental

Health Program, Pine Ridge Service Unit, Indian Health Service, U.S. Public Health Service. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Assessment

Personal family trees: In/correct labeling will allow for assessment of understanding how family connections function for the Lakota. Exit activity: allow for assessment of students understanding of language and connection between family members.