

Bringing Archaeology into the ESOL Classroom

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OVERVIEW

Students who are in English as a Second Language are primarily learning social and academic English. The students come from many parts of the world, from cities, towns and farms, and from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Classroom instruction centers around listening, speaking, reading and writing. This lesson plan will involve second graders at various levels of English proficiency-beginning to advanced. Language will be simple. Concepts will be presented conducive to seven year olds with limited English. The lesson will involve students listening, talking, reading and writing.

MISSION STATEMENT

Archaeology helps us to know about a people by digging into their past. By looking at different artifacts buried in the soil, much can be learned about how they lived. By using simple archaeological tools, students will dig from a large container filled with soil and “artifacts”. They will discuss what the artifacts reveal about the people. They will then report their findings on a T Chart. For example, a fish would signify food for the people.

ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

By studying the world, students can learn more about themselves and their culture and learn about other cultures as well. Archaeology, studying the past, helps us to shape our knowledge of ourselves and the world. It is through this study that students can discern similarities and differences among people in the world.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

How does archaeology unlock secrets of the past and help us to better understand how people lived?

What tools does an archaeologist use to find answers about the history of a people?

LESSON PLAN: DIGGING FOR ANSWERS

TIME: 50 minutes

Focus of the Lesson:

“Class, today you will be scientists. Scientists always ask questions. They always want to know answers. You will be a special scientist called an archaeologist. The people who dug up the pictures of famous sites I showed you, Rome, Greece, Tikal, Machu Picchu, the Maynard Burgess House here in Maryland and Meadowcroft in Pennsylvania were archaeologists. Try to say the word, archaeologist. “Archaeology is the scientific study of remains of past human activity” (Tetrault, 2005). Archaeologists want to know about people who lived in a long time ago. They learn about people by digging in the ground and examining what they find. You will dig in this box and take out one thing and place it on your desk. We will talk about all the things in the box and then write down what they mean.