

ecoMentors Lesson Plan Template: Helping kids explore the planet! www.ecomentors.ca

Title: Traditions and celebrations

Grade Level(s): 2

Time/Date:

School:

Teacher:

Directions to school, class:

Curriculum Link: Heritage and citizenship – traditions and celebrations

Vocabulary: Words & Concepts your class may be learning, look these up yourself too!

Tradition - a story or a custom that is memorized and passed down from generation to generation; from your grandparents to your parents, and from your parents to you.

Celebration - a joyful, happy occasion for special festivities to mark some happy event

Moral – lesson that can be learned from a story or event

Materials and Equipment: List these before and while you plan and revise so you're prepared.

Paper and colors

What is your class accomplishing?: Learning & Activity Goals, Objectives

- **Identify and/or create some environmental values**
- **Identify and describe contributions made by individuals and groups to the local community and the environment**
- **Demonstrate an understanding in cultural differences in communities, and their effects on the environment**
- **Describe the contribution everyone makes to the community and the environment**

PROCEDURE

The Spark: Introductions, Demonstrations, Show and Tell, Topic Intro (Break the ice!) ~5-10min

Introduce yourself. Name game: *What is your name and when is your birthday?*

Today we are talking about traditions and celebrations. Does anyone know what a tradition is? Can you give an example of a tradition? Does anyone know what a celebration is? Can you give an example of a celebration? What do we usually do at a celebration?

Brainstorming, Getting ideas, Connecting ideas (assess their knowledge!) ~10-20min

What happens on your birthday? Why do we celebrate our birthdays?

What if the sun had a birthday? What would you give it (him/her) as a present?

What if the moon had a birthday? What would you give it (him/her) as a present?

What if the sea had a birthday? What would you give it (him/her) as a present?

What if the forest had a birthday? What would you give it (him/her) as a present?

Continue with other elements; mountains, earth, ...

There is an Earth Day, does anyone know when it is? Play a guessing game, have a student guess a month and you tell them before or after, then guess the days until someone gets it right. (April 22nd!)

What would you do for Earth Day? How would we treat the Earth to a great day?

Activity, Game, Exercise, Debate, Puzzles, Problem Solving, Role Play ~10-30mins

Gifts to nature²

Ask the class: *What gifts does nature give you?* Let students write answers down on the black board or illustrate them yourself with a picture. *Can you give gifts back to nature?* Let the students think of different gifts they can give to nature, draw them on the black board.

Think of your favorite part of nature. How could you celebrate this part of nature? Let groups of students (4-5 students per group) work out their idea of celebrating nature. Each group should cooperate and think of a way to celebrate nature/ give something back to earth. Let them write/draw their plan down and present it to the class.

Ideas: tree-planting, festival, song, art from recycled materials, ...

It usually works best to assign 1 student of the group as the writer, and let each student draw an individual picture.

Activity, Game, Exercise, Debate, Puzzles, Problem Solving, Role Play(Pt. III or Cont...) ~10-30mins

Stories from nature

Tell the following stories to the class. Explain them that these stories have been told for many years now, because they are stories with a lesson in it. Have fun with your storytelling presentation. Look students in the eye. Take pauses and change your rhythm. Use funny voices. After each story ask the students some questions, end your questions with: *What can we learn from this story? What is the moral?*

Fox and Sour Grapes: *One hot summer's day a Fox was strolling through an orchard till he came to a bunch of Grapes just ripening on a vine which had been trained over a lofty branch. "Just the thing to quench my thirst," he said. Drawing back a few paces, he took a run and a jump, and just missed the bunch. Turning round again with a One, Two, Three, he jumped up, but with no greater success. Again and again he tried after the tempting morsel, but at last had to give it up, and walked away with his nose in the air, saying: "I am sure they are sour."*³

Questions: *Where was the fox? What did he want? How did he try to get it? Did it work? Why did he say that the grapes are sour? What do you think of the story? Why did people tell this story? What is the moral? Moral: It is easy to despise what you cannot get.*

The Ant and the Grasshopper: *In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest. "Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and moiling in that way?" "I am helping to lay up food for the winter," said the Ant, "and recommend you to do the same." "Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper; we have got plenty of food at present." But the Ant went on its way and continued its toil. When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food and found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing every day corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer.*⁴

Questions: *What was the grasshopper doing in the summer? What was the ant doing? What happened to the grasshopper when winter came? Why did this not happen to the ant? What do you think of the story? What is the moral? Moral: It is best to think ahead and make sure you are ready for more difficult times.*

The Shepherd Boy: *There was once a young Shepherd Boy who tended his sheep at the foot of a mountain near a dark forest. It was rather lonely for him all day, so he thought upon a plan by which he could get a little company and some excitement. He rushed down towards the village calling out "Wolf, Wolf," and the villagers came out to meet him, and some of them stopped with him for a considerable time. This pleased the boy so much that a few days afterwards he tried the same trick, and again the villagers came to his help. But shortly after this a Wolf actually did come out from the forest, and began to worry the sheep, and the boy of course cried out "Wolf, Wolf," still louder than before. But this time the villagers, who had been fooled twice before, thought the boy was again deceiving them, and nobody stirred to come to his help. So the Wolf made a good meal off the boy's flock.*⁵

Think of some of your own questions! Moral: A liar will not be believed, even when he speaks the truth.

Activity, Game, Exercise, Debate, Puzzles, Problem Solving, Role Play(Pt. IV or Cont...) ~10-30mins

Think of another fun activity in case there is time left.

Presentation of Findings ~5-15mins

Review, Conclusion and steps towards continued action ~5-10mins

What is a celebration? How do we celebrate the earth and nature? What does nature give us and what can we give back to nature? What are some rules that you should follow to protect the environment? Do you think that 1 day of Earth celebrations, tree planting and cleaning up is enough? Let's try to make every day Earth Day!

References

1. <http://www.primaryschool.com.au/humansocietyresults.php?kla=Human%20Society%20and%20Its%20Environment&unit=Celebrations>
2. Teaching green, the elementary years
3. http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/Aesop/Aesops_Fables/The_Fox_and_the_Grapes_p1.html
4. http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/Aesop/Aesops_Fables/The_Ant_and_the_Grasshopper_p1.html
5. http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/Aesop/Aesops_Fables/The_Shepherds_Boy_p1.html

Great work ecoMentor! After use of Lesson Plan, revise, add ideas and repeat!