

Roberson Museum and Science Center

Pre Visit Activity -Voices and Visions: Story Lab

Grade Level: 2-5

New York State Learning Standards: SS: 1,2,5 ELA: 1,3,4 A:1,3,4

Pennsylvania Learning Standards: RWSL:1.1,1.6,1.8 G:7.1,7.3 H:8.1,8.3 AH:9.2

Objective:

Students will experience what it feels like to be treated unfairly or to be discriminated against. They will discuss their feelings about being on either/both sides of prejudice and unfair treatment. They will also see the effects of discrimination in terms of immigration.

Vocabulary:

Prejudice – An unfavorable opinion or feeling formed beforehand or without knowledge, thought, or reason.

Discrimination - When you do something like leave someone out, make fun of, or treat someone unkindly or unfairly because of your prejudice.

Immigrant – Someone who has left his or her home or native country to settle in a new country

Persecute - To pursue with harassing or oppressive treatment, esp. because of religion, race, or beliefs; harass persistently.

Materials:

- Ribbons of two different colors (50% yellow and 50% blue, one per student)
- A safety pin for every ribbon
- Marker
- A simple reward for each student; a lollipop or pencil, for example
- List of very easy spelling words for spelling bee
- List of very difficult words for a spelling bee
- Sheet of Visa cut-outs

Setup: (10 Minutes)

1. Prepare two sets of ribbons; one set yellow, the other blue. Provide each student with one ribbon, either blue or yellow

Procedure: (20 Minutes)

1. As each student enters the class, pin one colored ribbon to his or her shirt. (Ask permission before pinning. Students who prefer to not wear the ribbon can display it in some other way.) When students have settled down, tell them they are going to take part in an experiment.
2. Proceed by setting up a spelling bee, with students forming teams based on the color of their ribbons. All students wearing one color ribbon will be given very easy words to spell; students with the other color ribbon will be given very difficult words. The team given easy words will be sitting on one side of the classroom in chairs, while the other team will be sitting on the other side of the classroom on the floor. When it is a student's turn to go, if he is wearing a yellow ribbon, read him a word from the easy list. If he is wearing a blue ribbon, read him a word from the difficult list. (Lists attached)
3. As the spelling bee progresses, you might award a simple prize, such as a lollipop or pencil, to each student who correctly spells a word. (If you do that, however, you should be prepared to give all students the same reward at the end of the activity).
 - a. Very quickly, students should notice that the yellow team is receiving many more pieces of candy. When the students realize that the yellow team is having an easier time getting candy, they can trade, if they choose, three of their pieces of candy for a "visa" which will allow them to "immigrate" to the other team. The students who choose to migrate on the blue team should then get a dot drawn on their ribbon allowing them to move over to the other side. This symbolizes immigration. However, the new immigrants must answer two easy questions correctly before receiving a piece.
4. Resume the game with these new rules.
 - a. Ask students who were on the blue team how they felt about getting a difficult word because they were wearing a certain color ribbon. Ask the students on the yellow team how they felt about getting easy words because of the color of their ribbon.
5. When the introductory activity is complete, you might begin a discussion of an historical event in which people were singled out for unfair treatment. (See attached Hmong historical account)
6. Explain to students that they will learn more about the Hmong people when they visit the museum.

Conclusion: (15 Minutes)

- What did you learn today?
- How did you feel when you were on the team with easy words?
- How did you feel when you were on the team with hard words?
- Were the students who immigrated to the easy team treated equally as those who were on it the whole time?
- How does this game apply to our society?
- Do the students think these inequalities exist in our culture?

Spelling Bee Words:

For Students on the Yellow Team: Read words from the list that is meant for students two grade levels below the grade of the students

For Students on the Blue Team: Read words from the list that is meant for students two grade levels above the grade of the students

KINDERGARTEN

fun, red, cat, on, sun, dog, jam, gum, bat, net, pig, fix, fun, in, sat, end, top, bat, plan, ran, at, best, big, box, cup, club, rub, not, hot, did, bed, jet, sad

GRADE 1

blue, milk, hand, stop, fast, brown, name, bake, kite, home, five, his, nose, green, ask, girl, bird, down, glad, baby, nest, sing, made, gate, joke, with, egg, ball, shell, tool, book, cry, want, two

GRADE 2

water, store, sister, dream, giant, pretty, orange, draw, chair, first, people, clean, sleep, happy, thank, shine, under, fresh, bring, start, luck, carry, taste, crisp, hobby, cost, easy, field, sting, never, brush, third, stove, flew, white

GRADE 3

school, paint, because, space, worry, trouble, hurry, please, climb, smell, should, earth, sugar, catch, early, corner, learn, large, whole, family, twice, quick, never, almost, point, watch, speak, wrong, scare, place, neighbor, bright, young, coin, proud, build, stairs, choose, teacher, special, afraid, below, enjoy, quiet, spring

GRADE 4

stretch, wrong, trust, month, shadow, choice, ocean, noise, radio, crowd, kitchen, library, judge, knock, follow, chase, enough, angry, remove, usual, vacation, laugh, satellite, surprise, alphabet, knife, forecast, geography, twelve, ticket, borrow, knot, scratch, pencil, central, serve, charge, answer, voyage, annoy, fudge, width, amount, naughty, gentle, celery, terrible, position, insist, throat

GRADE 5

disguise, percent, recommend, pleasure, official, stomach, exercise, instruction, restaurant, success, piano, decide, future, shoulder, distance, familiar, wrinkle, disease, journey, doubt, breathe, equal, discourage, tournament, achieve, sweater, attitude, cereal, similar, reduce, pleasant, memorable, jealous, police, repetition, average, nervous, electric, guitar, wreath, celebration, museum, dangerous, pronounce, vacant, initial, easiest, damage, concern, loathe

GRADE 6

continue, adventure, gracious, drought, disaster, chemical, surgery, knowledge, pursue, serious, orchestra, believe, legible, establish, cooperate, obedience, necessary, identical, coincidence, vacuum, grocery, horrible, prefer, resemble, scissors, government, ignore, column, science, responsible, character, schedule, rhythm, conscience, imaginary, sentence, companion, fasten, inquire, author, century, scholar, cousin, whistle, forfeit, prediction, possible
silence, choir, evidence

GRADE 7

environment, sympathy, imagination, recognize, committee, collaborate, strength, nonsense, opportunity, enormous, accomplish, disappear, familiar, beneath, location, innocent, guarantee, ancient, receipt, engineer, tongue, specific, misery, stingy, collection, ordinary, headache, foreign, interior, pierce, civilization, entrance, variety, congratulate, happiness, investigate, astonish, original, personality, estimate, graduate, dialogue, inferior, incredible, stereo, chemistry, fatigue, envelope, vehicle, function

GRADE 8

constitution, generosity, economic, endeavor, cylinder, abbreviate, picturesque, molecular, amateur, unique, mischievous, approximate, descendant, epidemic, communicate, scheme, substitute, acknowledge, gigantic, contagious, legislature, rehearsal, prosperous, tragedy, sanctuary, necessary, customary, aerial, category, definite, benevolent, politician, vocalize, threaten, priority, intercept, alternate, ceramic, essential, sustain, poisonous, ingredient, frequency, desolate, apology, deceitful, concept, durable, partial, declaration

GRADE 8+

auxiliary, deprivation, equation, hideous, nausea, reservoir, studious, reputable, antidote, chronic, benediction, credential, altercation, grotesque, poignant, authentic, convenience, sabotage, camouflage, tedious, expedient, hallucination, flexibility, mesmerize, stringent, lustrous, feasibility, mediator, tutorial, perjury