

Things One Sees in the Sky Unit

Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four -Year Olds, 2007

These standards are beacon lights for my curriculum. I adapt them according to the ability of my students. I use them as goals to strive towards or as background building for my students' future learning. These goals are my focus, but they are not the only objectives being utilized by the following lessons. Language and social goals are incorporated into our classroom daily routines.

I. Virginia Science Foundation Block 1: Scientific Investigation, Reasoning and Logic (pg. 25)

*The child will make observations, separate objects into groups based on similar attributes, develop questions based upon observations using the five senses.

II. Concepts To Be Taught:

1. Identify objects one sees in the sky
2. Location of sky is "up", "above", or "over" as people are "below" or "under" unless in an airplane, hot air balloon or spacecraft
3. Natural Things in the Sky or Heavens include:
 - sun
 - stars
 - moon
 - rainbow
 - planets
 - clouds
 - lightening
 - birds, bees, and other flying insects like lightening bugs
 - rain/snow
4. Man made things in the sky include:
 - airplane
 - helicopter
 - spacecraft
 - flag
 - satellite
 - hot air balloon
 - blimp
 - balloon

II. Concepts To Be Taught continued:

4. Man made things in the sky include:

- kite

III. Books that can be read:

- Moondance Published by Scholastic, Inc.
- Little Bear Goes To The Moon by Maurice Sendak
- Good Night Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
- Berestain Bears Go To The Moon by Stan and Jan Berestain
- Little Cloud by Eric Carle
- It Looked Like Spilt Milk by Bernard Shaw
- Blue's Clues Book of Planets
- When Morning Comes, When Night Comes by Ron Hirschi

Teacher Made Book:

- What One Can See In The Sky by Teresa Williams

IV. Questions to Pose (Depending on age and abilities of students: used this with k/2 students)

1. Why is the sky blue?

***With ECSE I have the students name the color blue and label the sky as "above" or "up"**

The sun's source of light looks white but it is really made of many colors. When the light shines on dust and tiny drops of water in the sky is scattered. The blue light is scattered more than any other color. That makes the sky blue.

2. What are clouds made of? What causes rain?

"Teach preschool that clouds have water inside. When the clouds become full it rains or snows. Use a sponge to illustrate concept."

Clouds are mad of tiny drops of water in the air. We see a cloud when many tiny drops of water join together.

3. What is a rainbow?

"Preschoolers learn that many colors make up a rainbow. That sunshine + water = rainbow."

A rainbow is made when sunlight shines through and bounces off drops of water in the air.

5. How does a plane fly?

Preschoolers: tell them the same as other children

A plane's engines lift it into the air. The plane's wings are shaped like a bird's wings.

V. Activities:

1. Outside Observations: Or if raining - look through a window
 - Make a list of pictures for children to look for : sun, cloud, bird, plane
 - Take outside child made binoculars
 - Paint 2 toilet tissue rolls black or what ever color you want
 - Staple the dried rolls together and punch 1 hole each on the outside of the rolls, then tie yarn through the holes so children can hang around the neck
 - Discuss "day" and "night"
2. Food Tray Gliders: Make gliders out of paper food trays , add stickers ; round the edges of plane
3. Cloud Activity :
 - Experiment: Take a sponge and fill it with water, let each child have an opportunity to squeeze out the water and make rain
 - Clouds in various textures:
 - ◆ use glue and shaving cream combination
 - ◆ use ivory snow and water
 - ◆ cotton balls
 - ◆ whipped cream on waxed paper
 - ◆ Ellison cutter shape covered in cotton balls
4. Make a mobile of things one sees in the sky
5. Make a wind sock
6. Sunshine activities:
 - Outline of sun, and paint it with corn syrup and yellow food color; add glitter
 - Paint a paper plate yellow , add paper sun rays
7. Make insects that fly: example : "lightening bugs" download a pattern or draw one then put Christmas lights through the tails so that they flash on off
8. Make a class collage of things one sees in the sky : I have pictures printed out and each child has an opportunity to place pictures on the collage .