

African American Voices Lesson Plans

Lesson Title: Kente Cloth
Subject: Social Studies/Art
Grade: First



Next Generation SSS: **SS.1.A.1.2** Understand how to use the media center/other resources to find answers to questions about a historical topic.

Description/

Abstract of Lesson: After learning about Kente cloth, the students will create their own Kente patterns.

Objective(s): Students will be able to identify the uses and importance of the Kente cloth in the African-American culture.

Materials:

- Informational sheet on the kente cloth
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Crayons

Lesson Lead In/ Opening:

1. Introduce lesson by showing Kente cloth (or picture of a Kente cloth). You can find samples of Kente cloth on the following website:

<http://www.kentecloth.net/kente-cloth-lesson/>

2. Tell students the name of the cloth. Ask students if they know what it means or if they have ever seen one. Discuss.

Activity Online:

1. Read information on Kente cloth to the students. Discuss. use the website above for reference.

2. Ask students what they think certain colors mean or how they make them feel. Share ideas with the class. Read the definitions of each color to students from the information provided by the following website:

<http://kente.midwesttradegoup.com/history.html>

3. Have students choose three colors to make a pattern for their own Kente cloth. Give students time to cover an entire sheet with their Kente pattern. Laminate their sheets and have them use them as place mats.

Assessment:

- Student participation
- Teacher observation
- Art grade for placement

**Additional
Web Resources:**

<http://www.virtualexplorers.org/ghana/kente.htm>

www.kinderart.com/multic/kente.shtml

www.africawithin.com/tour/ghana/kente_cloth.htm

www.ghanaembassy.or.jp/general/native.html

**Recommended
Books:**

Musgrove, Margaret & Cairns, Julia (2001) The Spider Weaver: A Legend of Kente Cloth, Blue Sky Press

Chocolate, Debbi (1997) Kente Colors, Walker Books