

★ Let US Teach That For You!

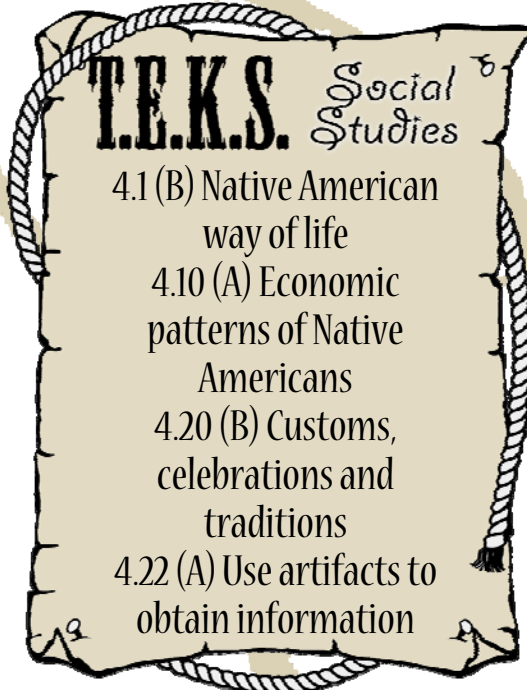
Preserving the Past

Overview: In this lesson students will observe how Indians preserved their past by rituals, customs, drawings, and story.

Objectives:

Students will:

1. Gain understanding of how history is preserved in the Indian culture: symbols, drawings, stories, traditions.
2. Analyze symbols used to preserve Indian heritage.
3. Relate their own history in the form of symbols on an artifact page.



Materials:

Educational Displays provided by Frontier Texas!

Spirit Guide Esihabitu, Indian symbols throughout the museum, Sun Boy's drawings on animal hides.

Materials Needed:

Copies of Attachment 1, manila paper, crayons.

Teaching Strategy:

Pre-Visit Introductory Activity

1. Ask students to recall photo albums or baby books that preserve the history of their families. Other photos they might recall include school pictures, team pictures, pictures or video of recitals or programs.
2. Students will recall other stories, rituals, or customs passed down in their families. Many of these may occur during holiday times.
3. Tell students that during their visit to Frontier Texas! they will discover how the Indians preserved their history before the time of cameras.

Learning at the Museum

1. During the Frontier Texas! tour, pay special attention to what Spirit Guide Esihabitu recounts about how Indian culture and customs were passed from generation to generation.
2. Notice the drawings on the walls of the Esihabitu exhibit and other places in the museum.
3. Distribute "Native American Symbols" page to students. (Attachment 1) Ask them if they see any of these symbols at the museum.
4. Next notice the drawings of Sun Boy on animal skins that tell of his adventurous life. Remember two things he drew on the skin.

Post-Visit Synthesis Activity

1. Upon returning to the classroom, quiz students about the symbols they saw in some of the Indian displays. Ask students what they would like for others to remember about their lives and activities.
2. Students will create an artifact of their own lives, using symbols representing different events of their lives, Encourage students to use eight to ten stick figures and/or symbols, like those used in the Indian drawings.
3. Give each child a 12x18 sheet of manilla paper on which to create their artifact page. Students will use crayons to draw symbols or pictures chronologically from their birth, noting significant events, interests, hobbies, and families.
4. As students begin to finish their pages, ask them to pair up with a classmate to determine if they can interpret each other's drawings about their lives.
5. Allow students to display and explain their artifact page to the class.

Alternative Activity:

Have students look at the drawings of Sun Boy on animal skins that tell of his exploits in life. Students may then draw or paint stories that represent things that happened in their lives on paper sacks that have been rumpled to resemble animal skins.

Discuss the importance of oral history and tradition, and ask the students to tell a family story or tradition that they have learned from older members of their family.

Student Assessment
























Assess student understanding by noting how many events are on their pages and the significance of each.

Enrichment Activity

Students will conduct online investigations of Indian drawings at the Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., <http://www.mnh.si.edu/> and the Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. <http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org/>

Created for Frontier Texas! by Jeanne Wray

Native American Symbols

Sign	Name	Meaning	Sign	Name	Meaning	Sign	Name	Meaning
	4 Ages	Infancy through Old Age		Eagle Feathers	Chief		Morning Stars	Guidance
	Arrow	Protection		Ceremonial Dances Enclosure			Mountain Range	
	Arrowhead	Alertness		Fence	Guarding Good Luck		Paths Crossing	
	Bear Track	Good Omen		Gila Monster	Sign of the Desert		Peace	
	Big Mountain	Abundance		Headdress	Ceremonial Dance		Rain Clouds	Good Prospects
	Bird	Carefree - Lighthearted		Hogan	Permanent Home		Raindrop-Rain	Plentiful Crops
	Butterfly	Everlasting Life		Horse	Journey		Rattle-snake Jaw	Strength
	Cactus	Sign of the Desert		House of Water			Running Water	Constant Life
	Cactus Flower	Courtship		Lasso	Captivity		Saddle Bags	Journey
	Coyote Tracks			Lightening Snake			Sky Band	To Happiness
	Crossed Arrows	Friendship		Lightening Arrow	Swiftness		Snake	Defiance, Wisdom
	Days and Nights	Time		Man	Human Life		Sun Rays	Constancy
	Deer track	Plenty Game		Medicine Man's Eye	Wise, watchful		Sun Symbols	Happiness
	Teepee	Temporary Home		Thunder-bird	Sacred Bearer Happiness		Thunder-bird Track	Bright Prospects
	Warding off Evil Spirits							