South Dakota Artists Curriculum Unit

Ben Reifel
“Design an Alphabet Book”

Provided by the South Dakota Art Museum
Brookings, South Dakota
Unit of Study: Ben Reifel, Native American politician

Title of Lesson Plan: Design an Alphabet Book

Grade Level: 3 – 5
U.S. History:

3.US.2.2 Students are able to identify a community’s culture and history.
South Dakota Content Standards

**Reading:**

4.R.5.2 Students can research a topic by gathering information from at least two sources.

5.R.5.1 Students can use select information from two or more reference sources to meet a goal.

**Listening, Viewing, & Speaking:**

5.LVS.1.4 Students can deliver a narrative oral presentation.
Assessment Strategies

- Class discussion
- Observations during book writing
- ABC Books
- Observations while reading books
Learning Objectives

- Students will use the Internet to research Native American culture and history.

- Students will use the Reifel Tribal Art Collection located at the South Dakota Art Museum to learn about Native American culture and history.

- Students will learn how to design and write an ABC book.

- Students will share their books with others.
Time Required

- One class period of 45 – 60 minutes

Materials/Technology Needed

- Examples of ABC books
- Access to the Internet for research purposes
- Native American theme books
- Pictures of items in the Reifel Tribal Art Collection from the South Dakota Art Museum
- White copy paper
- Markers, pens, crayons, water colors, etc.
- Construction paper
Background Information

- The Reifel Tribal Art Collection at the South Dakota Art Museum gives a wonderful insight into Native American culture and history. By sharing the collection with students, it will enhance their understanding of Native American life and culture as well as teach them about Native American history.
Lesson Description

- Share with the students pictures from the Reifel Tribal Art Collection (or take a field trip to the museum located in Brookings, SD).

- Discuss each item and the purpose of the item. You may also wish to discuss what the item is made from. Stress to the students that Native Americans had to live off the land. They could not go to stores to go shopping for clothing or food so they needed to use what was available from nature to survive.

- Show the students examples of ABC books and discuss how they are organized.
Lesson Description continued

- Have the students design an ABC book using Native America culture as their theme. They can use white copy paper to design their books which you can staple together. Construction paper can be used for covers for the books if you want.

- Give the students a due date to have the books to you. Have the students share their ABC books with the class.

- Set up a learning center in the classroom for all the books so they may read one another’s books during private reading time.
Enrichment

- Have the students share their ABC books with a lower grade. Pair each student with a K-2 student and they can read their book aloud to their partner.
Bibliography/Resources

- **Benjamin Reifel: Transitional Sioux Leader** by John S. Painter; Badlands Natural History Association.

- Reifel Tribal Art Collection at the South Dakota Art Museum

- South Dakota Art Museum Collection
  - Ben Reifel

Ben Reifel Presentation to Students
Ben Reifel

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Ben Reifel

- Born near Parmalee, SD on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in 1906

- Heritage is both German and Sioux

- Member of the Brule or Burnt Thigh tribe of Sioux

- 1925 – 1932
  - Attended South Dakota State College (presently South Dakota State University) in Brookings, SD
Ben Reifel

1961 – 1971

- Represented South Dakota’s first district in the U.S. House of Representatives
  - Only member in Congress with Native American heritage
  - Promoted education on reservations
  - Served on Appropriation and Agriculture Committees
  - Helped secure funding to bring Earth Resources Observation System (EROS) Data Center to South Dakota

- Worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on the Pine Ridge Reservation as a farm agent and in Aberdeen, SD as the BIA Area Director
Ben Reifel

- Worked as superintendent of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota
- Died in 1990
Bibliography

- South Dakota Art Museum Collection
  - Ben Reifel

*For more information about Ben Reifel or the Reifel Tribal Art Collection, contact the South Dakota Art Museum*
Images of the Reifel Tribal Art Collection
Moccasins

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Crow Headdress

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Gauntlets

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Boy’s Vest

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Medicine Rattle

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum
Pipe Stem and Bowl

Image Courtesy of the South Dakota Art Museum