

Multicultural Curriculum - Kindergarten Language Arts Lesson Plan

Hush! A Thai Lullaby by Minfong Ho

Celebrate a Thai Holiday

Content/Theme: Thailand Holiday

Grade: K

Literature Connection: Hush! A Thai Lullaby by Minfong Ho

Available through: WebCat and Scott Foresman Series (off adoption): Grade K, Unit 6,
“Hush! A Thai Lullaby,” Trade Book, pg. 58

Primary Benchmark

SS.K.A.2.2 Recognize the importance of celebrations and national holidays as a way of remembering and honoring people, events, and our nation’s ethnic heritage.

Secondary Benchmark

LA.K.1.7.1 The student will make predications about text content using pictures, background knowledge, and text features (e.g., title, subheading, captions, illustrations)

Time: 1-2 class periods

Objectives:

- Students will learn about Thailand and its most famous holiday.
- Students will be able to make predictions about text by looking at the picture and title.

Teacher Preparation/Materials:

- Story, Hush! A Thai Lullaby
- World Map
- Handout of boat, scissors and tape

Activities:

1. Before reading the story, show the book cover. Ask them what they see. Ask them what they think the story will be about. Tell students the title. Explain that you are going to read a story from Thailand. Use a large map to ensure that students know the location of Thailand relative to the United States. Explain that Thailand is in Asia and is a tropical country.

- Point out the long coastline and ask the class what Thai people might like to eat. Establish that people living near the sea are probably able to catch and eat fish.
 - Ask students what kind of animals they may have in Thailand.
2. Preview the story and share the illustrations showing the animals and food special to Thailand that you have just discussed.
 3. Read the story and point out the different cultural aspects such as:
 - the mother's head wrap
 - the Rice Barn and the fact that rice is a part of many of their meals
 - the fact that they live in a tropical area with so many animals all around
 - the house is on stilts
 - they have a grass roof
 - there are mountains in the background
 - the baby sleeps in a hammock, not a crib
 4. Provide after story follow-up through Turn & Talk / group discussion
 5. Tell students about the most famous holiday in Thailand. Tell students that children come to school dressed in special costumes on this day to make paper boats and launch them on the lake. The boats are said to carry away any sorrows of the year so that a new wish for good luck can be made for the upcoming year.
 6. Cut around the outline of the boat and have students color each side.
 7. Help students cut the slits on each edge in the circles. Help students fold and tape the edges.
 8. The boats used by children on the Thailand holiday have flowers and candles on them. Students can place a flower in their boat before they launch it.
 9. Ask students what sorrows they wish would float away and what wish they would like to make for next year before it is launched.

ESOL Strategies: Read Aloud, Visuals

Review of Lesson and Assessment: Participation, student product

Multicultural Content Information

Thailand is a beautiful country in Asia that has a rich culture and history. Slightly more than the two times the size of Wyoming, Thailand lies between Burma and Cambodia. Known as Siam until 1939, Thailand is the only Southeast Asian country never to have been colonized by a European power. Since 1932 their country had held a constitutional monarchy. The majority of the people of Thailand are Buddhist. Thailand's most popular holiday is the Festival of Light: Loi Krathong (loy-kruh-thong). It is celebrated on the day of the full moon of the 12th lunar month each year. "Loy" means "to float" and a "Krathong" is a lotus-shaped vessel (boat) made of banana leaves. The Krathong usually contains a candle, three joss-sticks, some flowers and coins. After lighting candles and making a wish, Thai children put the boats on the water and let them drift away. People are offering thanks to the Goddess of water. It is believed that the Krathongs carry away sorrows that have happened in the year. It is also a time to make a good luck wish for the following year. It is happy and fun time since the sorrows float away and good wishes are to come.

PAPER BOAT

Directions:

- 1. CUT around the paper boat on the outside lines.**
- 2. CUT the short lines in the center of both of the circles.**
- 3. FOLD the sides long ways.**
- 4. FOLD and TAPE (or glue) the cut edges of the circles to make a round curve (one on each end).**
- 5. Boat will look more like a canoe (no sails).**

