

Name: _____

Arbor Day Lesson Plan

Supplies

Download these ESL resources at www.elcivics.com/arbor-day-lesson-1.html . The worksheets are at the bottom of the page.

- Arbor Day Reading Worksheet
- Hidden Picture Puzzle – Planting a Tree
- Crossword Puzzle and Answer Key
- Acorn in a Tree Maze

Objectives

Students will be able to do the following:

1. Answer correctly when asked: When is Arbor Day?
2. List four kinds of trees
3. List four kinds of fruits that grow on trees
4. Describe how trees help the environment, people, animals
5. Solve a crossword puzzle by using clues
6. Write a conversation and role-play it for the class
7. Find hidden objects in a picture puzzle
8. Navigate a maze

Warm-Up

(10 minutes)

Write the sentences on the board.

- Arbor Day is the last Friday in April.
- It is a holiday to celebrate trees.
- Trees produce oxygen.
- Animals and insects live in trees.

Directions: Have the students copy the sentences. Read them aloud several times and have the class repeat them chorally. Explain the use of capital letters and periods. Ask for volunteers to read the four sentences aloud to the class.

Introduction

(1 minutes)

Preview: Let the class know that today's subject is Arbor Day. Tell them that they are going to learn when Arbor Day is, how we celebrate it, how trees help the environment, names of trees, various types of fruit trees, who Johnny Appleseed is and more.

Presentation

(10 minutes)

and then ...

Listening: Tell the class the story of Johnny Appleseed. Summarize his life and be brief. Read the Wikipedia entry beforehand to refresh your memory. Make a few notes on an index card to help you remember the facts. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnny_Appleseed

Have the class list types of fruit trees: apple, pear, orange, plum, etc.

(20 minutes)

Online Lesson with Photos: If you have an interactive whiteboard, follow the link at the top of this page and present the three-page photo lesson to the class. Ask questions about each of the pictures as you

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move through the lesson. Each photo has several bullet points next to it that you can use as an information guide. Adjust your vocabulary to suit the level of the class you are teaching.

Be sure each student can tell you when Arbor Day is and some of the benefits that trees provide to humans, animals, and the environment. Example: produce oxygen, home for birds and insects, escape route for animals, prevent soil from eroding, provide wood for houses and furniture, wind barrier, sound wall, shade, paper, beauty, food, etc.

Practice
(30 minutes)

Arbor Day Worksheet: Read the story to the class before you pass out the papers. Read it again after you have distributed the papers. Have the students complete the written exercises. Review. Have groups of students role-play the dialogues they wrote.

Practice
(15 minutes)

Crossword Puzzle: Students use the clues to solve the puzzle. If the words are too difficult, you can list the answers in random order and write them on the board. When everyone is finished, review the answers by saying the clues and having the class call out the answers.

Practice
(15 minutes)

Hidden Picture Puzzle of Planting a Tree: Ask questions about the picture on the upper part of the worksheet. What animals do you see? What is the squirrel holding? Review the names of the objects that are in the box at the bottom of the page. Allow the students 10 minutes to find all the hidden objects. Review the four types of trees that are shown and labeled in the main picture: white oak, black walnut, elm, beech. Ask the class to add to the list of types of trees. For example: weeping willow, pine, evergreen, and palm.

Acorn in a Tree Maze: Students complete the maze or take it home for their children. It's fun, but a bit easy for adults.

Evaluation
(10 minutes)

Written Quiz: Have students take this quiz in pencil only, so they can erase their answers and reuse the paper! Give the class five minutes to list 10 ways that trees benefit humans, animals, and the environment.

Application
(10 minutes)

Wrap Up: Brainstorm ways people can preserve forests. Examples: Use less paper by using both sides, sign a petition, plant a tree, donate money to an organization, reuse paper bags, use cloth bags, recycle newspapers, etc.

TOTAL TIME
~ 2 hours