

HOLIDAY LESSON for Winter Break

(Fall 2024)

Name: Title of Lesson: The Twelve Days of Christmas in Arizona

Grade Levels: 3 & 4 or you can adjust K-5

Part 1: Teacher Preparation

Teacher Resources: You know the skill levels of your students. Go through the entire lesson and determine whether this will be an individual, group or whole class project. That way you can see how long it will take, what supplies work best, where you will want to make modifications to enhance this learning experience with your students. Samples will be included to help break down the art process.

MATERIALS NEEDED

*Lyrics for the Twelve Days of Christmas

*Vocabulary to pre-teach before reading

*Book-*The Twelve Days of Christmas in Arizona* by Jennifer J. Stewart or use video in our lesson.

ISBN 978-1-4027-7036-4

*YouTube Video Pentatonix-12 Days of Christmas (Official Video)

*Images, Paper to create a picture book for your own 12 Days of XXXXX

Part II: Strong Beginning: Purpose (Objectives and AZ Standards)

Arizona Standards: 3rd Grade

ELA Standards: 3.RL.1 3.RL.4 3.RI.1 3.RI.3 3.RI.4 3.RF.4 3.RI.7 3.W.2 3.WF.1
3.W.7 3.SL.4 3.L.1 3.L.2

Social Studies-Compare information provided by different sources about AZ.

Geography-Physical features of your area, 22 Indian Nations, 5 Cs, plants, animals.

Arizona Standards: 4th Grade

ELA Standards:4.RL.3 4.RL.7 4.RI.9 4.W.1 4.W.5 4.W.7 4.SL.1 4.L.1

Social Studies: The contributions of various cultural and ethnic groups to the development of the Americas.

Inclusion of historical fiction, picture books in addition to informational text.

Objective: Students will create a picture book (Individual, Small Group, or Class) based on the Christmas song, *The Twelve Days of Christmas* modeled from the book *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Arizona*.

Using what they know about their school, community, and state students will develop a series of letters to write to someone to teach them about their school, community or the state.

(Lesson will include ELA letter writing, Social Studies study of Arizona, their community and school, Art to enhance the letter and objects that they choose to describe.)

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to answer the following:

How do you write a friendly letter?

Who or what represents your school, community or state?

What are the basic historical elements around the Christmas song, The Twelve Days of Christmas?

Why is their school, community or state important and what would you tell someone who may have never been here before to learn about it?

Research and be able to discuss up to 5 Arizona State Symbols, animals, plants, or points of interest here in Arizona.

How to define and describe the term parody.

Purpose: What will the students “do and know” by the end of the lesson?

Today the students will learn the background information on the Christmas Carol, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Listen to a picture/graphic book based on the pattern of the song and develop their own book using the patterns of the song and their school, community, state, or country as source of information to the picture book.

So that they can: Create, write, show various points of view of Arizona written in a friendly letter format to make their story parody the 12 Days of Christmas theme.

They'll know it when: Completed artwork and letters telling about their world in a friendly letter which parodies The Twelve Days of Christmas.

Pre-Assessment:

Activity: Ask students to name their favorite Christmas Song. Ask them if they have ever heard of the 12 Days of Christmas song. Watch the YouTube version of the song then pass out the lyrics and read over (or sing the song) as a class.

Also ask if they know what the word parody means.

PARODY-an imitation of the style of a particular writer, artist, or genre.

Set or Hook for Learning (Inquiry):

Today we will learn about the origin of the song, The Twelve Days of Christmas. This song is thought to be over 400 years old. It originated in England with the theory that it was designed as a memory and forfeits game. Singers of the song were tested to recall knowledge of the song lyrics and had to award their opponent a forfeit of a kiss or some favor if they made a mistake in the words of the song. The things named in the song have changed over the years to adapt to what was known or something that existed in that time period that the singing was being done .

Another version of the song is that it was based to help Christians learn about their faith.

Actually, if a person were to give someone all of the gifts in the song would actually be pretty expensive. The total amount of money needed to buy all the items in the song, or rent people to do what they sing in the song could cost a whopping \$45,523.27!!!

This is a song that lends itself easily to parodies (Jeff Foxworthy Redneck version, Twisted Sister's heavy metal take and of course The Muppets version featuring John Denver). Define parodies and possibly show them a sample from the list.

Today we will be reading a book that is a parody of the song but in written form with gifts that are found right here in Arizona.

The name of the book is, *The Twelve Days of Christmas in ARIZONA*. Written by Jennifer J. Stewart and illustrated by Lynne Avril.

Either read the book aloud or watch the video of the book if you do not have access to it and ask students to notice any similarities/differences from the song to the picture book.

The Twelve Days of Christmas
Place link to video here

After students have heard the story ask

Questions:

What did you notice that was similar about the song and the book?

What was different?

The letters written by Isabella to her family back East were important. Why?

If we were to create a picture book telling about our school, our community or our state what kinds of things would we want to

include in the book? What if we were writing to students in our same grade but lived in a different state?

Brainstorm what could be included in the book and start numbering them 1-12 like the song.

B. Guided Practice (Follow me):

What are you and the students “doing?”

Once you have selected valuable items that share your school’s story, your community’s story or your state’s story you will want to give them a sample of what you are looking for. Creating a template of what to be sure to include will help.
*If you want to create the First Day item with a story in a friendly letter this would be a good example for them to follow.

Students can now create their artwork and friendly letter to parody and align to the Twelve Days of (your school, community, or state) your book.

Your Classroom....

As you are aware of the modifications, ability levels, group/individual work dynamics you will want to decide if everyone selects a person to write to, develops their own 12 Days of XXXXX and creates their own book. OR Create a Class book with small groups.

Students may use magazines (Arizona Highways) to find AZ images. Students may research images and print to create their illustrations. Students may draw their items/people/things to represent the 12 Days of Christmas
***Sharing your picture book with the lower grades might be a fun way to share your masterpiece!!!

HAVE MORE TIME?

***** **Hold a Book Talk** for other classes. Invite other classes to come hear your students' books. Tell them that your students learned about the Christmas song, The Twelve Days of Christmas, then read a book that was a parody of the song but about a girl's experience in Arizona for the first time. Students also researched Arizona State Symbols, their school and community. They wanted to share what they learned in the form of creating a picture book. Students can go to each piece and let the artist tell about their artwork.

This is a great opportunity to teach students about Arizona and prepare them for the AHS Postcard Contest. Check our website <https://arizonahistoricalsociety.org/> For the 3rd Grade postcard contest information, lessons/activities, contest rules and deadline for submission for your classes winning postcards. If you create any new extension activities for learning for this lesson please share them with the AHS Education Department @ krex@azhs.gov
Photos of your gallery walk? If you have permission to use photos for your students we would love to see the finished products!

THANK YOU for letting the Arizona Historical Society provide you lessons to learn more about Arizona's history!