

Bringing the Rain

Pre-K + ELA and Music

Adapted by Shea Thrash

CORE SUBJECT AREA

ELA

ART FORM + ELEMENTS

Music
Expression

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

Simulate the sound of rain
Make rain in a controlled environment
Learn about the need for rain for life
Experience different cultures through song and literature
Create a rainstick

MATERIALS NEEDED

Computer to watch Reading Rainbow
Student map
Teacher rainstick
Cardboard tubes
Rice
Scissors
Rubber bands
Brown paper bags
Piper cleaners

MSCCR STANDARDS

RI.PK.7 With prompting and support, make connections between self and text and/or information and text.

RI.PK.8 With prompting and support, explore the purpose of the informational text as it relates to self.

RI.PK.10 With prompting and support, actively engage in a variety of shared reading experiences (e.g., small group, whole group, with a peer or teacher) with purpose and understanding through extension activities (e.g., experiments, observations, topic studies, conversations, illustrated journals)

MSCCR CREATIVE ARTS STANDARDS

MU: Pr6.1.PK Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work. a. With substantial guidance, perform music with expression

DURATION

2; 35 minute sessions

VOCABULARY

Culture

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

YouTube.com

LESSON SEQUENCE

1. Play the rain game. Seat students in a circle on the floor. Do not tell them what they will be doing. Wait until everyone is completely silent. Start by quietly tapping your fingertips together slowly. Signal to the students to do what you're doing. Slowly increase the frequency and intensity of the finger tapping. Clap your whole hands together. Become louder. Move the clapping to floor slapping. Get as loud and "thunderous" as you can. Reverse the process slowly, returning to an occasional finger tap. (You have simulated a rainstorm starting with a few drops and moving into a downpour and then diminishing.)
2. Discuss student observations of the rain game. Ask students: "What did this remind you of?"
3. Discuss the importance of rain. Ask students:

- Why do we need rain?
- What would happen if it did not rain?
- What other forms of weather provide water to the earth?
- How is rain made?

The teacher will show the PBS Reading Rainbow episode Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain. The video is available for viewing on YouTube.

Step 1: As a class, discuss with students parts of the book. Ask students:

- What kinds of animals live on Kapiti Plain?
- Which animals are wild?
- Did the bow and arrow make the rain come?
- How did the plain change after the rains came?
- How did Ki-pat feel about this?

Step 2: Talk about “rain makers.” In Kapiti Plain, the rainmaker was the bow and arrow. Share with students that some cultures dance to make the rain come. Others sing and chant. Some people pray to a rain god. And other cultures make “instruments” that sound like rain to encourage the rain to come.

Step 3: Introduce the rainstick. Show students where Chile is on the map. Explain to them that Chileans use rainsticks to encourage rain to fall. Show them your homemade rainstick. Tell them that real rainsticks are made from the cactus plant. (Show them a real rainstick if you’re lucky enough to have one or use our photos of rainsticks provided in the resource carousel.)

Step 4: Make rainsticks. Rainsticks can be made a variety of ways. For this, it is best to do work with small groups of students at a time. Here are directions to make a simple rainstick:

Rainstick Instrument Directions

1. Start by painting your cardboard tube.
2. Cut out two circles from a large, paper grocery bag.
3. Attach one circle to the end of your cardboard tube using a rubber band.
4. Fill the rainstick by placing a few twisted pipe cleaners into the rainstick along with rice.
5. Once you’re happy with the sound of your rainstick, rubber band the other paper circle to the opposite end.
6. Tie some different colored pieces to yarn to each end. Step 5: Have each student group perform with the instrumentation of the rainstick that they just made as if to pretend to make it rain in the classroom.

SOURCES

<https://buggyandbuddy.com/how-to-make-a-rainstick-instrument/>

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