

Communication and Language: Our World - Building Understanding

Exploring other cultures (elements of India)

Rae



Intro

The resource will guide you through how to create an 'experience' of another culture.

Through the multisensory experience, we hope to elicit engagement and interaction with you (the adult) as well as with the objects and sounds.



Aims

- reciprocal play and interaction
(my-turn-your-turn)
- expressions of curiosity
- clear sensory responses to new or less familiar stimuli
- clear choice making
- requests (gestural, verbal or through signs and symbols)



Teaching Notes

When exploring another culture, it is critical to be mindful that, if we are not of that culture, we may bring misconceptions and/or biases into the classroom. In this lesson, we explore “elements of India”, which is an enormous subcontinent full of diverse cultures. We use the title ‘elements’ to acknowledge that we are simply ‘dipping in’ to one minor part of an experience of a large and diverse country.



Lesson Structure

This lesson is structured by isolating one sense at a time and recommends a range of experiences for each sense.



Visual (see)

Auditory (hear)

Gustatory (taste)

Olfactory (smell)

Tactile (touch)

Somatosensory
position, movement,
pressure, vibration,
experience of touch
("feel")



For this lesson you will need

- Recommended, but not required:
 - A range of materials relevant to the culture or country you are exploring
(see later slides for recommendations)

As always an analogue or 'look/feel-alike' is perfectly valid.



Getting ready

- Reduce distractions within the room (turn off anything that creates light or sound)
- Prepare your child to be 'ready for learning' - this may require a run around outside first, a snack, or an opportunity to re-position and settle into a comfy chair
- Create interest by sharing and exploring props/resources
- Show them you're excited for the lesson! Build curiosity and anticipation!



Visual (see)

Task - explore, copy and create your patterns on fabric or your body by printing shapes cut from potato or using your fingers

Clothing - sari (wrapped fabric) and salwar kameez (long dress over trousers) in different bright and patterned fabrics.

Mehndi patterns.



Task - make your own 'instruments' to join in

Auditory (hear)

Task - encourage the child to turn the music on and off

Task - read Santhini Govindan's work and "Haroun and The Sea of Stories" by Salman Rushdie

Research traditional, folk and pop music and literature of the culture.

Try "ragas" and "sitar"

Try "bollywood hits"

Try "bhajans" (devotional songs)

Try poetry and stories!



Task - explore the ingredients of a biryani before cooking and after

Gustatory (taste)

Gulab Jamun is sweet favourite!

Explore traditional foods or ingredients by cooking and tasting them.

Try a range of different spices

Try paratha, chapati, roti or naan



Task - patchouli and bergamot originate in south India. Burn the incense or explore the essential oils (a few drops on cotton wool will allow more independent exploration).

Explore incense and fragrant spices and fruits. This activity could be part of the exploration of tastes and foods.

Olfactory (smell)



Find culturally relevant objects with a range of textures to feel.

- turmeric root
- bag of rice
- toy elephant
- finger chimes

Task - place a range of objects into a feely-bag (a paper bag or a fabric tote work well) for the child to pull out

Tactile (touch)

Task - why not prompt the child to find a particular item under some fabric by feeling for it?



Task - do some
Bollywood dancing or
copy the moves from a
Bollywood movie

Task - explore Indian
massage techniques
using fragrant oils

Task - paint mehndi
designs on the body

Somatosensory

position, movement,
pressure, vibration,
experience of touch
("feel")

Explore movement and
touch relevant to the
cultural experience.



Communication and Language

Our World Unit 10: Lesson 3

Exploring other cultures (elements of India)

Make it easier

Find something that is highly motivating to engage your child, rather than introducing new things immediately.

Present two things only for each question for your child to choose from.

Make it harder

Encourage your child to explore with independence.

Ask them to find things that match, or to locate different items.

Develop a reciprocal game.

More ideas

Engage with stories and music from different cultures.

Play the musical instruments from those cultures - copy and repeat rhythms that your child plays.

Explore the sounds of the languages of other places.

