

Title: Turkish Cultural Immersion Experience for Preschoolers

Grade level: Pre-K

Subject: Mathematics, Language & Literacy, Social Studies, Science, the Arts

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Synopsis: This lesson allows students to experience the fascinating culture of Turkey without ever leaving the classroom. They will be exposed to various sites throughout the country through a week-long, classroom-based “cultural immersion” experience that will enhance preschool students’ worldview by introducing them to a new place and culture. Each lesson will focus on a specific location or element of Turkish culture and develop students’ skills in a particular subject area.

Source: TCF 2015 Teacher Study Tour Participant

Objective

To enhance preschool students’ worldview by introducing them to a new place and culture through a week-long, classroom-based “cultural immersion” experience.

Materials

Materials and resources needed for this lesson plan are underlined.

Lesson Plan

Language & Literacy

Nasreddin Hoca Stories

Students will listen to age-appropriate read-alouds of the stories of Nasreddin Hoca. They will determine the message of each story and discuss how it can apply to their lives.

Turkish Language

Students will reinforce their own knowledge of the English alphabet by learning the differences between it and the Turkish alphabet. For example: they will recall that the English C makes a /C/ sound, but in Turkish, it makes the same sound as J in the word “jump”.

Daily Journals

After a week of learning about Turkey students will complete a journal entry inspired by the prompt, “In Turkey, I want to see...” In Pre-K, journals may be written, illustrated or both, since students are at greatly different places in the process of learning to write.

Mathematics

Mosaics of Chora

Students will learn the meaning of the word “mosaic” and will be shown pictures of the mosaics at Chora Church. We will review names of 2D shapes using Tangrams, and students will create their own mosaics from pre-cut paper shapes and glue.

Science & Social Studies

Çatalhöyük Excavation

Students will learn what an “excavation” is and how scientists can learn from them about people who lived long ago. Students will learn about the excavations at

Çatalhöyük and participate in a classroom-based excavation. They will uncover artifacts such as beads (plastic craft store beads) and pieces of pottery (broken terra cotta pots, with sharp edges filed down) using tools such as paintbrushes and popsicle sticks. The artifacts will be hidden in a large container of sand, and students will discuss their findings and make records of them by writing and/or drawing in their journals.

Creativity, Art, & Music

Cappadocia Dramatic Play

Students will participate in a dramatic play center designed for students to pretend they are living in the rock dwellings of Cappadocia. They will be introduced to Cappadocia through a mini-lesson and a series of photographs displayed on a Smart Board. We will use large boxes arranged to mimic the carved-out rooms for students to climb inside of. Crayons will be provided for students to create their own murals inside of the boxes, just like the paintings inside the churches of Cappadocia.

Paper Marbling (Ebru)

Students will create their own marbled paper masterpieces using a disposable aluminum pan, water, marbling ink, gel medium, ink droppers, toothpicks, and watercolor paper. They will each take turns using the droppers to drop the colors of their choosing into the water/gel medium mixture. If they choose, they may swirl the colors with a toothpick. With assistance, they will place the paper on the surface of the liquid to transfer the ink.

Other Elements of Turkish Culture

Turkish Names

Students will learn common Turkish names, and may choose one to use throughout the week.

Turkish Cooking

Students will be exposed to Turkish cuisine through simple cooking lessons and tastings. As a class, they will view and participate in a cooking demonstration of the preparation of Shepherds' Salad, yogurt with honey, Turkish tea, and Turkish Delight.