

Lesson Planning and Class Descriptions

Goals and Objectives:

The first step in planning a unit study is to establish a set of goals and objectives. These objectives depend

on the age, learning needs, background, and interests of the students, the nature of the curriculum, and the instructional goals of the teacher. For example, a major objective for one teacher might be to help students discover the basic literary elements of plot, characterization, setting, theme, and style. Another teacher might decide the objectives for her class will be the development of speaking and debate skills. Yet another might be the promotion of creative writing skills. Still another may be to discover the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates through the dissection of a sampling of each classification.

Once the objectives are formulated and the focus chosen, the teacher is ready to gather the books, experiments, crafts, videos, and other activities, which will serve as the core of the unit. Excellent resources are available from the library, teacher supply stores, homeschool catalogs, the internet, etc.

Procedures:

This is the place where you will decide exactly what will be studied each day (the FOCUS). You will want to begin with at least a couple of class sessions by teaching them background information through the use of stories, other books, videos, then moving to the more activity based lessons. You will have 10 days for this part of your plans. Within the procedures you will be including WHAT you will be teaching that day, HOW you will be teaching the lesson, WHAT the students will be doing and HOW you will be evaluating the students. The evaluation portion may be as simple as observing them in class or in a small group. Or another evaluation method may be to play a class game or to question them.

The last part of the plan should be some sort culminating activity, so that your unit you teach is tied together. This will be near the end of your 10 days of plans. It may be a collection of their writings/stories that they've written, a class recipe book (cooking class), a Jeopardy style game reviewing all information, a project they work on in and out of class, a class museum, an oral report, a book talk, setting up a pioneer village, a bake sale, whatever it is that will bring all of the knowledge that they have gained in the semester together. Keep in mind that we will have a Family Night again at the end of the semester where classes can showcase any projects, what they've learned, etc. This can take the form of a presentation, song, display, demonstration, or whatever is suitable for your class. We would like all classes to participate in some manner.

Materials:

Make a materials list for your class. Your class fee will be based on this list, so be sure that you make an exhaustive list to be sure you receive enough money for supplies.

You also need to make a list of what you want your students to bring with them each class time, such as pencil, crayons, markers, sketchbook, paper, apron, calculator. Be specific with your list so that all of the children have the proper materials.

An underlying objective for focus units and the enrichment classes is to provide appropriate learning opportunities and challenges and thinking experiences for all children. The learning experiences which promote active learning will meet the needs of our children who have a wide range of interests and talents. The focus unit model functions as an open invitation to all children to become actively involved in what they are studying. The focus unit is essentially a group experience in which common questions, concerns and interests are shared and explored.

If you have any questions or need any help, please contact your Age Level Coordinator.

Happy Planning!
Lori Duncan, Director