Festivals of India

By Sriparna Tamhane | Jul 25, 2012

The lesson plan on festivals gives an opportunity for encouraging learning through co-operative group discussion and sharing. Much of the knowledge comes from observing the cultural traditions followed in the children’s homes and around them. It also naturally lends itself to the integration of social studies with art and music, thereby addressing multiple intelligences, making learning experiential and fun. It can also encourage children to appreciate their own as well as each other’s traditions and culture.

Duration:
02 hours 00 mins

Introduction:

The lesson plan on festivals gives an opportunity for encouraging learning through co-operative group discussion and sharing. Much of the knowledge comes from observing the cultural traditions followed in the children’s homes and around them. It also naturally lends itself to the integration of social studies with art and music, thereby addressing multiple intelligences, making learning experiential and fun. It can also encourage children to appreciate their own as well as each other’s traditions and culture.

Support Material:
- resource_1_-_picture_of_diwali-_festivals_of_india.jpg
- resource_2_-_ppt_-_festivals_of_india.pdf
- resource_3_-_flash_cards_-_festivals_of_india.docx
- resource_4_-_the_story_of_janmashtami_-_festivals_of_india.docx
- worksheet_1-_my_favourite_festival_-_festivals_of_india.docx
- worksheet_2-_festivals_of_india_-_festivals_of_india.docx

Steps:

Day - 1

Steps:

Step 1: Generating interest: (Time 10 mins)

The teacher shows the picture depicting Diwali. (resource 1) She takes the help of the following questions or similar ones, to initiate a conversation around Diwali.
• What is happening in the picture?
• Why do you think the girls are making “rangoli” on the floor?
• When do you create a rangoli?
• Have you made a similar rangoli on the floor or seen someone making it at home?
• Do you know what is used to create a rangoli?
• Why do you think there are lamps around the rangoli in the picture?
• When do we celebrate Diwali?
• Do we celebrate other festivals too?
• Can you name some of these festivals?

**Notes to the teacher:** During the conversation in the EVS class the students should be allowed to speak in their mother tongue if they are more comfortable with it. They should be helped to express themselves in English if they fall short of the right vocabulary. The emphasis here is to encourage the students to express their knowledge/opinion spontaneously, without inhibition or the fear of making grammatical errors while speaking.

**Step 2:** Finding out more about different festivals: (15 mins)

The teacher divides the class into groups of five. She tries to ensure that each group has a balance of children belonging to different states and different religions if possible. She asks them to select any one festival that they celebrate and discuss the following questions around it:

a. When is the festival celebrated?

b. Why do you celebrate this festival?

c. What do you do on that day?

d. Which special dish is prepared on that day?

e. What clothes do you wear on that day?

After discussion, a child from each group comes forward and describes any festival. Students from other groups may also contribute more details.

**Step 3: Presentation (Time: 15 mins)**

The teacher ensures that the students are ready for their presentation. Students from each group share their findings about one particular festival with the rest of the group.

**Step 4: Assessment**

The teacher asks the students to write at least five lines on any one of the festivals and draw a picture connected with the festival.

Worksheet 1  (My favourite festival)

This task can be given as homework

**Day -2**

**Steps:**

**Step 1: Recapitulation (Time: 15 mins)**

The teacher shows the PPT named “Festivals of India” (resource 2) to the students for recapitulation and to know about other festivals not discussed in class.
Step 2: (15 mins)

The teacher divides the class into five groups. She gives two sets of flash cards to each group. One set contains some words associated with a particular festival and the other contains the names of the festivals. The children are asked to match the flash cards. (resource 3)

Step 3: Assessment (10 mins)

The students read a line describing the festivals and unscramble the letters to guess the names of the festivals. Worksheet 2 (Festivals of India).

Day -3

Notes to the teacher: The teacher asks the students to come prepared to celebrate a festival in class. She asks them to dress in their traditional costumes. Ideally, the teaching of this topic can be done in such a way that it coincides with the actual celebration of any of the festivals. The students can follow some of the traditions, depending on the festival they have chosen to celebrate. A set of activities around the celebration of Janmashtami has been given below as an example. The teacher can adapt the concept to any other local festival that she decides to celebrate. A conscious effort should be made by the teacher, to develop a spirit of appreciation and tolerance while celebrating the festivals of any religion other than one's own.

Step 1: The Birth of Krishna (10 mins)

The teacher tells the children the story of the birth of Krishna (resource 4)

The focus of the lesson should be on the cultural aspect of a festival rather than the religious.

Step 2: Celebration (30 mins)

The teacher then divides the class into three groups.

Group 1 creates simple dialogues and enacts the story

Group 2 makes a rangoli on the floor

Group 3 learns a song on Shri Krishna

Group 4 decorates the idol of Krishna and prepares a traditional “jhanki”.

Notes to the teacher: The teacher can initiate the activities of each group and then devote time to one group for teaching the song. Some amount of co-ordination is required for each group. Children from other religions should be encouraged to take part in the celebration. If possible, the students can attempt to make “kheer” or “payasam”, a special sweet dish prepared on the occasion of Janmashtami. Simple and easily available sugar crystals “Mishri” could be arranged as an easy alternative.
Step 4: Extension activity

The teacher asks the students to find stories related to other festivals like Holi, Id, Diwali, Christmas etc.

Step 5: Personal reflection:

They could also be encouraged to make their own illustrated booklets/scrap books on the festivals of India.

Notes to the teacher: Preparing a booklet brings out the creativity of children. The children could draw or stick pictures related to the festivals and write at least a couple of sentences about each festival. They could be given sufficient time to complete the activity at home.

Assessment:

Continuous and comprehensive assessment happens through the following activities:

- Identifying the main festivals of India
- Collecting information and writing a small paragraph on any one festival (Worksheet 1)
- Recalling the main festivals of India (Worksheet 2)
- Presenting information coherently
- Writing five lines about any one festival
- Drawing a picture connected with the festival
- Matching the names of the festivals (flash cards) with the details
- Unscrambling the names of festivals (worksheet)
- Preparing an illustrated booklet on the festivals of India

Objective:

The students will be able to:

- Identify the main festivals of India
- Do co-operative group work to discuss and collect information on the specific details of any one festival
- Present the information on festivals creatively and coherently.
- Describe why these festivals are celebrated
- Listen to the story of Janmashtami
- Enact the story if Janmasthami
- Make a "rangoli" or "kolam" on the floor
- Sing a song related to Krishna