Attributes of Various Colorado Indian Dances

Lethia Lee and Bonnie Lavin
Academy District 20
Colorado Springs, Colorado

OVERVIEW

Students will look at the CD-ROM (Doing History/Keeping the Past Colorado Indians Community Life Menu-"Ceremonies") and write a piece (narrative or expository) regarding the attributes of an Indian dance.

STANDARDS

- Reading Standard 1: Students read and understand a variety of materials.
- Reading Standard 2: Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Reading and Writing Standard 3: Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
- Reading and Writing Standard 4: Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.
- Reading and Writing Standard 5: Students read to locate, select, and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference, and technological sources.
- History Standard 2.1: Students know how to formulate questions and hypothesize regarding what happened in the past and to obtain and analyze historical data to answer questions and test hypotheses.
- History Standard 2.2: Students know how to interpret and evaluate primary and secondary sources of historical information.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will use Doing History/Keeping the Past CD-ROM to discover the part that ceremonies played in the lives of the Colorado Indians.
- Students will research different dances and note the attributes in order to write an expository and narrative piece.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- What are the different dances performed by the various Indian tribes?
- How, when, where, and why were these dances performed?
MATERIALS

- Doing History/Keeping the Past CD-ROM Community Life-"Ceremonies" and "Village Life" or website
- Any other sources that the teacher may have as books, magazines, websites, etc.

PROCEDURE

1. Students look the CD-ROM dealing with Colorado Indians specifically, Community Life-"Ceremonies."

2. Use other sources to find information about the various dances.

3. Students list the attributes of a dance of their choice using the graphic organizer-"description attributes" below:

4. Students write a descriptive or explanatory paragraph about the dance.

5/17/03
This activity was created with funding from the Colorado State Historical Fund.
5. In partners students plan a story incorporating the attributes as well as story grammar: setting, characters, events, etc.

6. Together students write a story using the plan above as a guide.

7. Share stories with another team and compare/contrast stories orally.

EXTENSIONs

1. Students illustrate their stories and make them into a book to be shared with another class.

2. Scan the illustrations into Kid Pix or Hyperstudio and make a slide show of the stories.

ASSESSMENT

- The stories are evaluated on the 6 traits of writing.
- Evaluate the graphic organizers.
- Oral presentation can also be evaluated for speaking/viewing.