

Unit I: Human Behavior
Grade Levels: K-5
Time: 1-2 class periods

Lesson EI-2: The Beauty of Colors

Interdisciplinary Connections:

Science, art, social studies, character education, literacy, mathematics

Objectives:

- The students will be able to give examples of ways in which each person is unique yet has things in common with others.
- The students will be able to explain why the ways in which each person and group can help enrich and expand the nature of life for everyone.

Key Terms:

Unique	Burkas	Saris	Pirogi
Curried Chicken	Vibrant	Arc	Hopscotch
Christmas	Hanukkah	Ramadan	Rainbow

Materials:

- Book: *The Colors of the Rainbow* by Jennifer Moore-Mallinos, Illustrations by Marta Fabrega.
- Jellybean Nation pamphlet (may be obtained free upon request via <http://www.kidscorner.org/html/jellybean.php> courtesy of GlaxoSmithKline, National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia, PA, and Kids Corner WXPB-FM)

Activities/Procedures:

- Ask the students how many of them have ever seen a rainbow. Call upon the students to offer descriptions of the rainbows they have seen and make a list of some of the words used to describe a rainbow.
- Ask the students to describe how a rainbow makes them feel and make a list of some of the words used in their descriptions. Examine the words and ask the students if the words describe good feelings or bad feelings.
- Ask the students if they can explain why the rainbow makes them feel that way.
- Discuss how and why a rainbow is formed.

Classroom Activities:

- Ask the students if they have ever thought of people as rainbows. Use their responses as a way to introduce the book, *The Colors of the Rainbow*.
- As you read aloud, hold the book up so students can see the illustrations. Comment on the many colors that can be seen in the illustrations.
- As the class moves through the book, relate the observations in the book to the students in the class, i.e., the many shades of skin, count different colors of hair and hairstyles, the differences in eyes, clothing styles, etc. Make lists for each item. (Be sensitive and careful of your manner and that of the students during this part of the lesson so that students are not offended by anything stated.)
- List some of the different styles of restaurants in the community and ask about the different kinds of food served.

Make a list of some of the foods served in the restaurants. Ask the students, "Who has eaten in some of the restaurants?" and "Who has had similar food at home either through restaurant take-out or prepared at home?"

- Make similar lists of other topics mentioned in the book, i.e. games, holidays, homes, etc.
- At the end of the reading, direct student attention to all of the lists of differences found among the students in the classroom. Count them. Ask if the students have ever thought about all of the differences found among the members of their class.
- Now make a list of the things they share in common: have hair, have clothing, have eyes, have nose and ears, have voices and language, etc.
- Ask the questions: "Are all of your friends JUST LIKE you? Do you ever think about your differences when you are having fun together?"
- Ask the questions: "What do you and your friend(s) enjoy doing together? What do each of you enjoy doing with someone else or by yourself that you do not do together? Are you still friends when you are doing something different?"
- If the teacher has obtained a copy of *Jellybean Nation*, prepare a plastic bag filled with jellybeans. If possible, have beans of different sizes as well as different colors. Ask the students to point out some of the differences among the jellybeans. Can they always tell the flavor by the color? What about the scent found in some jellybeans? Use other comments and observations found in the pamphlet to engage the students in a discussion about differences and similarities among people.
- If there is no concern in the class about sugar, (as expressed in school rules/regulations and/or in parental preferences or health folders via nurse, etc.) give each student 2 or 3 jellybeans to eat as they do their hands-on exercise. Non-sugar jellybeans are available for those who have diabetes, etc. If eating the jellybeans is not acceptable, place them in a clear plastic jar or box to be used in math for guessing numbers, identifying shapes, etc. or some other subject game. Alternatively, adapt the exercise using many different buttons or other inedible objects.

Evidence of Understanding

Give each student a large piece of white paper. Fold the paper in half and then open the paper so that it is possible to see both halves. Students should be given a single color (avoid black or white) crayon and asked to draw a rainbow using only that crayon on one half of the paper. Once that is done, permit each student to have at least six different colors and instruct them to draw another rainbow on the other half of the paper using the many colors. Ask the student to select the rainbow that would make their classroom a happier, better place to work and play. Cut the paper in half and collect the rainbows selected to place around the classroom or on the bulletin board. Before posting the rainbows, have the students stand in a small circle holding their rainbows in front of them. Go around the circle and have each student take a turn explaining how the students in the class make a rainbow and why they like feeling like part of a rainbow.

Extension Activities: Taking Action and Giving Service:

Go to the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education website at <http://www.state.nj.us/njded/holocaust> and click on the curriculum guides. Select the curriculum guide for Kindergarten - Grade 4, Caring Makes a Difference. Select one or more of these lessons to do as a follow up lesson.

- *The Colors of Us* by Karen Katz, p.8
- *All Kinds of Children* by Norma Simon, p.9
- *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox, p. 15
- *The Crayon Box That Talked* by Shane DeRolf, pps 16-17

Teaching Tolerance Lessons:

"Getting To Know Each Other" <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=692>

"Me and We: A Mix It Up Activity" <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=964>

"Many Shapes and Sizes" <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=827>

"I Am Special" <http://www.Tolerance.org/activity/i-am-special>

Note to Teacher: If you are not familiar with Teaching Tolerance, it is recommended that you visit the website and familiarize yourself with its many free materials and resources. <http://www.teachingtolerance.org>