

Powwow's Coming

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS



DRUM CIRCLE

Have children sit cross-legged in a large circle on the floor. Pick one child to start. Have that child make one drum stroke by slapping their right or left knee, hitting the ground, clapping once, snapping, etc. The next child in the circle should repeat the first child's stroke and then add their own different stroke. Keep going around the circle like this. See how complicated your beat can get before someone forgets a stroke! The child who messes up should start the next round.



KEEPING THE BEAT

Materials: can with lid, paper bag, construction paper, crayons, tape, rubber band, scissors

One purpose of a drum is to help dancers keep a beat. Make a drum to help you follow the rhythm of the story.

1. Cut a piece of construction paper to fit around the can so it is covered. Draw different designs and shapes on the paper. Tape paper to can.
2. Cut a circle from the paper bag that's about 2 inches bigger than the can lid. Crumple the paper and roll it around in your hands to soften it.
3. Put the lid on the can. Flatten out the circle and center it over the lid. Hold paper in place with tape. Put rubber band around top of can to hold paper on.

"CLAY" BEADS

*This project takes at least 2 days.

Materials: bread, white glue, water, dishwashing soap, bowl, straw, measuring spoon

1. Cut crusts off 7 pieces of bread. Break bread into tiny pieces. Place pieces in a bowl.
2. Add 7 tsp. of white glue. Mix well. Add 1/2 tsp. of water and 1/2 tsp. of dishwashing soap. (Use more water if mixture is too dry.) Knead mixture.
3. Take a small amount and roll it into a ball with your fingers. Use a straw to punch a hole in bead. Repeat. Let beads dry for 24 hours.
4. String beads on yarn or pipe cleaners. (Recipe makes about 20 beads.)

MAPPING

Materials: markers or crayons, map template of your state (online: www.50states.com/maps)

Make a map key and color in the locations of early American Indian tribal lands that used to be within the borders of your state as well as those still present today. These can be found at www.native-languages.org/states.htm.

LET'S FIND OUT

Use the internet to find out more about powwows. What kind of dances could you see at a powwow? Why is the drum so important? Make a colorful poster to share your findings with the class.

