



The Riley Institute

DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Lesson Plan

Diversity Leadership Initiative - Midlands Spring Class 2014 – A Team

Essential Questions:

What is diversity? Why is it important to celebrate difference?

Unit/Lesson Objectives:

As part of a Capstone project for Furman University's Diversity Leadership Institute Spring 2014 Midlands Class, Group 1 (AKA The A Team) created an activity book for elementary school children grades K-5 to teach and encourage tolerance and diversity acceptance.

Students will be able to define the following terms: diversity, unique, intolerance, kindness, culture and differences. Students will have a better understanding of the importance of diversity. Students will color and do activities in the book with others.

Plan:

Facilitator: *Gives purpose for the visit and "Celebrate Difference" activity book.*

Ex Script: Today we'll talk about understanding and celebrating diversity. In the spring of 2014, the Diversity Leaders Initiative "A Team" debuted a project to promote diversity acceptance among students. They decided that the best way to help celebrate diversity is through an activity book. So, we will give all of you the books in a moment ... right after we tell you a little bit about the Celebrate Difference Activity Book and some important words we'd like you to know. Then we'll color a little while, talk about what you've learned, and at the end ... you get to take these books home with you. So, let's get started.

Facilitator: *Discusses page 2*

Ex: Let's talk about the first page of the activity book, which says "We celebrate diversity." What does it mean to celebrate? **(Pause for answers)** Celebrate means to proclaim or praise something – kind of like a party! What are some things that you celebrate? **(Pause for answers)** Now, who can tell me what diversity means? **(Pause for answers)** Diversity means that things are different and can come in various forms, size or kinds. And that can include how people look or act, what groups we belong to, where we live ... there are a number of things that make us different. What are some ways that the people on this page are different? Turn to your neighbor and talk about that please. **(Pause for discussion)**. Diversity

encompasses a whole range of things and throughout this book you'll see why diversity is important.

Facilitator: *Discuss page 3*

Ex: This next page is about being unique. Can someone read the words for me? **(Student reads)**. Now, who thinks they know what unique means? Talk to your neighbor about that **(Pause for discussion, then ask for response)** Webster's dictionary defines unique as "being the only one of its kinds or unlike anything else." Can you name some ways that people can be unique? (Pause for answers). What about the people on this page? How are they unique from one another? **(Pause for answers)**. So being unique or one of a kind is something really positive and good ...something that should be celebrated and valued because it makes our world better and more interesting.

Facilitator: *Discuss page 4*

Ex: Let's talk for a moment now about page 4. Who can tell me what's going on here? **(Pause for answers)**. See the signs? They say "Nobody should be mean to others" and "Stop and think before you do or say something that could hurt someone". When people are mean to others and say things to hurt others ... we can say that person is probably intolerant. Intolerance means not accepting of things or people that might be a little different from us. And if we're not tolerant, sometimes we can miss the chance to learn from one another ... which is important.

Facilitator: *Discuss page 5*

Ex: Who can read that for me? **(Pause for answer)**. And why is it important for us to be kind to those we meet? Talk to your neighbor **(Pause for discussion)**. The signs on the page tell us why it's important to be kind. See the squirrel? His sign says "Keep in mind that everyone is different not better or worse.. Just different!" and this sign on the tree says "Talk to an adult you can trust. They can help you find ways to be nicer to others." So kindness is important because we are all different and being nice to others is the right thing to do. It makes us all feel better about being a little different.

Facilitator 6: *Discuss page 6*

Ex: Page 6 reads "we come from different cultures...different languages, looks and sounds." Culture is a big word. Can anyone take a guess at what that means? Culture is defined as "the beliefs, customs, arts, etc., of a particular society, group, place, or time." It can be beliefs, ways of life, art, a way of thinking, or even the types of food you eat to name a few. So if we look at these pictures, we can see people of different cultures. And we can identify or tell their cultures by the clothes they are wearing here. But culture can also include languages. How many of you speak a different language or know someone who does speak another language? Great, these cultures make up the diversity of our world.

Facilitator 7: *Discuss page 7*

Ex: Page 7 reads "These differences are beautiful. They make the world go round." And on this page we have a world map. Maybe some of you can name countries or areas that your families come from. This page also has some other words that have something to do about

diversity: Community and equality. We want you to try to find the words in this word puzzle to the right and then think about what the other words mean.

Facilitator 8: Leo Twiggs Bio/*Summarize the project*

Ex: Before you do some of the activities in the book, I want to tell you a little bit about the author:

Leo Twiggs was born in St. Stephen, South Carolina. He received his B.A. degree from Claflin University, and later studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. He earned his M.A. from New York University. He was the first African-American to receive the doctorate in Art from the University of Georgia and the first visual artist to receive the Elizabeth O'Neil Verner Award for outstanding contributions to the arts in South Carolina.

Twiggs' paintings are done in a unique batik process that he developed through an innovative manipulation of the traditional technique, and he has won international recognition and numerous awards. Several works have been selected to hang in U.S. embassies in Rome, Sierra Leone, and Senegal, among other places. He has had more than 65 one man shows and has exhibited at the Studio Museum in New York and in shows at the American Crafts Museum, the Mint Museum in Charlotte, and the Herbert F. Johnson Museum at Cornell University.

In the spring of 2014, Mr. Twiggs drew the illustrations in the activity book we have here today. He did this so that you can think about differences as a positive thing, something that adds value to our lives and communities.

As you color and do some of the activities, we hope you will think of ways that you can celebrate diversity ... be a little kinder to others and find out about different cultures. So, let's color and in a few minutes, we'll come back and talk a little bit more about what you learned.

(Distribute activity books and crayons)

Conclusion:

Facilitator summarizes the lesson, and asks key depth of perception questions: Who can tell me something you learned today? Does anyone have any questions?

Preparation needed/Materials:

PowerPoint file, software and laptop are required to show each page. Activity books and crayons are also needed.

Definitions:

- Abilities – a natural or acquired tendency to do something successfully or well

- Acceptance – a written or verbal indication that somebody agrees to an invitation or offer. The toleration of something without protest
- Bias – an unfair preference for or dislike of something
- Celebrate – to show happiness that something good or special has happened
- Community – a group of people who live in the same area, or the area in which they live. The public or society in general
- Culture – the beliefs, customs, practices and social behavior of a particular nation or people
- Custom – something that people always do or always do in a particular way by tradition. The way somebody usually or routinely behaves in a particular situation
- Different – not the same as something or someone
- Diversity – a variety of something such as opinion, color or style. Ethnic variety, as well as socioeconomic and gender variety, in a group, society or institution
- Equality – rights, treatment, quantity or value equal to all others in a specific group
- Inclusion – the addition of somebody or something to, or the presence of somebody or something in, a group or mixture
- Race – one of the groups into which the world's population can be divided on the basis of physical characteristics such as skin or hair color
- Respect – a feeling or attitude of admiration and deference toward somebody or something
- Tolerance – the acceptance of the differing views of other people, e.g. in religious or political matters, and fairness toward the people who hold these different views

Answer Key to Word Puzzle:

Celebrate Diversity Word Search

Look for these words in the Celebrate Diversity word search:

U	U	E	M	T	L	I	E	D	A	I	A	B	A	R	abilities
B	Y	E	F	T	U	I	R	B	I	N	C	T	I	O	acceptance
E	I	S	E	R	A	C	C	E	P	T	A	N	C	E	bias
O	O	S	A	N	B	I	T	C	R	T	A	O	T		celebrate
E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	T	U	A	N	T	M	C	community
F	N	I	N	C	L	U	S	I	O	N	N	E	M	U	culture
T	Y	R	D	I	I	I	U	E	C	N	S	L	U	L	custom
L	M	T	I	L	T	D	I	F	F	E	R	E	N	T	different
E	U	C	V	O	I	F	I	R	Y	R	E	Y	I	U	diversity
R	A	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	E	F	T	R	equality
C	L	M	R	T	S	C	R	I	T	S	E	N	Y	E	inclusion
L	C	U	S	T	O	M	R	B	T	P	R	S	L	M	race
T	R	L	I	U	T	B	R	I	N	E	T	E	E	E	respect
C	U	C	T	O	L	E	R	A	N	C	E	S	E	C	tolerance
E	S	A	Y	I	E	R	L	S	T	T	U	I	T	U	