

Elementary Lessons Starter Kit K-Grade 2

1. What is A Griot?

2. Researching a Modern Day Griot

1. What is A Griot?

Objective: Students will learn about the role and significance of griots in West African culture through storytelling, music, and discussion.

Grade Level: Kindergarten to Grade 2

Duration:

- 1 class period (approximately 30-40 minutes)

Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and markers
- Picture book about griots or West African culture
- Audio samples of griot music
- Simple musical instruments (e.g., drums, tambourines)
- Coloring sheets with images related to griots and West African culture

Lesson Outline:

Introduction (5 minutes)

1. **Hook Activity:**
 - Start with a simple, engaging story. Use a picture book about a griot or a story from West Africa.
 - After the story, ask the children if they enjoyed it and why.
2. **Objective Presentation:**
 - Briefly introduce the term "griot." Explain that griots are special people in West Africa who tell stories, sing songs, and play music to share history and important lessons.

Direct Instruction (10 minutes)

1. **Definition and Roles:**
 - Explain in simple terms that griots are like storytellers and musicians who help remember important things from the past.
 - Show pictures of griots in traditional clothing, playing instruments, and singing.

Cultural Significance:

- Tell the children that in some places, people didn't always have books or computers to write things down, so they used stories and songs to remember things.
- Explain that griots help keep the stories of their people alive.
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Interactive Activity (10 minutes)

2. **Listening to Griot Music:**

- Play a short, age-appropriate audio clip of griot music.
 - Ask the children to listen carefully and then share how the music makes them feel.
3. **Making Music:**
- Give the children simple instruments (like drums or tambourines) and let them try making music like a griot.
 - Encourage them to create their own short "story" with music.

Art Activity (10 minutes)

1. **Coloring Activity:**

- Provide coloring sheets with images of griots, drums, and West African patterns.
- As they color, walk around and talk to them about what they've learned about griots.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

1. **Recap Key Points:**

- Gather the children and briefly review what a griot is and why they are important.
- Ask a few children to share one thing they remember about griots.

Closure:

- End with a fun griot-related song or dance that the children can join in.

Lesson Plan: Understanding Griots for Kindergarten to Grade 2

Objective:

Students will learn about the role and significance of griots in West African culture through storytelling, music, and discussion.

Grade Level:

Kindergarten to Grade 2

Duration:

1 class period (approximately 30-40 minutes)

Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and markers
- Picture book about griots or West African culture
- Audio samples of griot music
- Simple musical instruments (e.g., drums, tambourines)
- Colouring sheets with images related to griots and West African culture

Lesson Outline:

Introduction (5 minutes)

1. **Hook Activity:**

- Start with a simple, engaging story. Use a picture book about a griot or a story from West Africa.
- After the story, ask the children if they enjoyed it and why.

2. **Objective Presentation:**

- Briefly introduce the term "griot." Explain that griots are special people in West Africa who tell stories, sing songs, and play music to share history and important

lessons.

Direct Instruction (10 minutes)

1. **Definition and Roles:**
 - Explain in simple terms that griots are like storytellers and musicians who help remember important things from the past.
 - Show pictures of griots in traditional clothing, playing instruments, and singing.
2. **Cultural Significance:**
 - Tell the children that in some places, people didn't always have books or computers to write things down, so they used stories and songs to remember things.
 - Explain that griots help keep the stories of their people alive.

Interactive Activity (10 minutes)

1. **Listening to Griot Music:**
 - Play a short, age-appropriate audio clip of griot music.
 - Ask the children to listen carefully and then share how the music makes them feel.
2. **Making Music:**
 - Give the children simple instruments (like drums or tambourines) and let them try making music like a griot.
 - Encourage them to create their own short "story" with music.

Art Activity (10 minutes)

1. **Colouring Activity:**
 - Provide colouring sheets with images of griots, drums, and West African patterns.
 - As they colour, walk around and talk to them about what they've learned about griots.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

1. **Recap Key Points:**
 - Gather the children and briefly review what a griot is and why they are important.
 - Ask a few children to share one thing they remember about griots.
2. **Closure:**
 - End with a fun griot-related song or dance that the children can join in.

Additional Resources:

- **Books:**
 - "The Story of the Drum" by Lloyd Moss
 - "Mama Panya's Pancakes: A Village Tale from Kenya" by Mary and Rich Chamberlin
- **Music:**
 - Traditional griot music samples available on platforms like YouTube.

Evaluation:

- Participation in the music and colouring activities.
- Ability to share what a griot is and why they are important during the recap.

By the end of the lesson, students should have a basic understanding of who griots are, their role in storytelling and music, and their importance in keeping history and culture alive.

Lesson Plan: Researching a Modern Day Griot for Kindergarten to Grade 2

Objective:

Students will learn about the role of modern-day griots, their contributions to culture and society, and how to conduct simple research.

Grade Level:

Kindergarten to Grade 2

Duration:

1 class period (approximately 30-40 minutes)

Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and markers
- Picture book about a modern-day griot or relevant cultural figure
- Computer or tablet for showing video clips
- Short, age-appropriate videos about modern griots
- Simple research worksheets
- Coloring sheets with images related to griots and West African culture
- Crayons and pencils

Lesson Outline:

Introduction (5 minutes)

1. **Hook Activity:**
 - Start by asking the children if they remember what a griot is. Provide a brief recap if needed.
 - Show a picture of a modern-day griot who tells stories
2. **Objective Presentation:**
 - Explain that today they will learn about modern griots who are similar to traditional griots but live and work in today's world.

Direct Instruction (10 minutes)

1. **Introduction to Modern-Day Griots:**
 - Read a short story or show a picture book about a modern-day griot. Example: a book about Youssou N'Dour or another contemporary artist from West Africa who continues the tradition of storytelling through music.
 - Discuss how these modern griots use music and stories to share important messages and keep traditions alive.
2. **Simple Explanation of Research:**
 - Explain that they will do some "research" to learn more about a modern griot. Simplify the concept of research by explaining it as finding out more about someone or something by looking, listening, and asking questions.

Interactive Activity (10 minutes)

1. **Video Viewing:**
 - Show a short, age-appropriate video clip of a modern griot. Discuss what the children saw and heard.
 - Ask questions like:
 - What instruments did they see?

- What kinds of stories or messages were in the music?
2. **Class Discussion:**
- Lead a discussion about the video. What did the children like about the story? What did they learn?

Guided Research Activity (10 minutes)

1. **Research Worksheet:**
- Provide a simple worksheet with prompts such as:
 - Draw a picture of the griot.
 - What is the griot's name?
 - What stories do they tell?
2. **Research in Pairs:**
- Pair up the children and let them work together to complete their worksheets. Assist them by providing information and showing more pictures or clips if necessary.

Art Activity (5 minutes)

1. **Colouring Activity:**
- Give out colouring sheets related to modern griots and West African culture.
 - Encourage children to add details from what they've learned about modern griots.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

1. **Sharing and Recap:**
- Have a few children share their drawings and one thing they learned about the modern griot they researched.
 - Recap the importance of griots and how even today, people continue to share stories and music in similar ways.
2. **Closure:**
- End with a fun song or dance inspired by the griot's performance to engage the children and reinforce the day's lesson.

Additional Resources: Videos:

- Age-appropriate clips of modern griots performing, available on YouTube.

Evaluation:

- Participation in the discussion and activities.
- Completion and understanding demonstrated in the research worksheets.
- Engagement in sharing and art activities.

By the end of the lesson, students should have an understanding of what modern-day griots do, how they are similar to traditional griots, and why their work is important in preserving and sharing culture.