EXPLORE Lesson Plan for California Teachers

Lesson Title: Cabrillo and the Kumeyaay: A First Contact Two-Voice Poem

Grade Level: 4

Lesson Objectives:
- Students will describe features of Spanish explorers and exploration.
- Students will describe the environment and daily activities of the Kumeyaay Indians.
- Students will identify, discuss, and describe differing points of view during cultural contact.

Big Idea: People see the world through the lens of their own culture and experiences.

Essential Question(s): How do people from differing backgrounds see each other?

California Standards:
- HSS 4.2.1: Discuss major nations of California Indians, including their geographic distribution, economic activities, legends, and religious beliefs; and describe how they depended on, adapted to, and modified the physical environment by cultivation of land and use of sea resources.
- HSS 4.2.3: Describe the Spanish exploration and colonization of California, including the relationships among soldiers, missionaries, and Indians.

Lesson Introduction:

Students recall the first time they entered a new environment – a new school, sports team, after-school or summer camp, community group, neighborhood or apartment complex, etc. Students share what they observed, thought, and felt in those experiences. Teacher then asks Students to recall the first time they met someone who was different from them – different age, language, race, religion, etc. Students share what they observed, thought, and felt in those experiences. Teacher explains that this lesson is about the first contact between people from different environments and cultures.

Learning Activities:

Teacher projects an image of the California stamp honoring Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and asks students to observe carefully all parts of the image. Teacher engages students in small group and class discussion using such questions as: What do you think about when you hear the name Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo? What time period is depicted in this drawing? What kind of ship is shown in the background? What is the
Teacher tells the story of Cabrillo's historic sail aboard one of three Spanish galleons on September 28, 1542, into what is today known as San Diego Bay. Cabrillo was seeking to establish Spanish dominance over potential trade routes to China. Cabrillo's ships followed a barren coastline from New Spain to Alta California until they entered a harbor with calm waters, which the Spaniards called San Miguel (today named San Diego). Cabrillo and his crew first encountered people known as the Kumeyaay Indians who had been living in Southern California and Northern Baja California for more than 10,000 years. The Kumeyaay gathered shellfish from the shores of the bay and used tule reed canoes to fish far from the shore. When Cabrillo's ship, San Salvador, entered the bay in 1542, imagine what the Kumeyaay saw, thought, and felt. Cabrillo described the Kumeyaay as friendly, "well built" and clothed in animal skins.

After telling the story, Teacher projects a painting depicting Kumeyaay life in the 16th century. Students are engaged in analysis of images with such questions as: *What do you see in this picture? Where do you think this scene took place? What can you describe about the natural environment? What are the Kumeyaay people doing? Why are they doing these things?*

Teacher asks Students to think about the first encounter between the Kumeyaay and Cabrillo. Students are paired up and each takes the position of either a Kumeyaay Indian or Cabrillo. Students compare and contrast what these two peoples might have seen in each other, believed about each other, and might have wanted from each other upon first contact. Teacher facilitates whole class sharing and records responses in a large Venn diagram on the board.

Teacher provides Students with two-voice poem organizer and reviews instructions to complete organizer, create a title for the poem, then write/type a final draft of the poem on a blank page. The final draft should have two columns – one for each perspective – and each of the four lines answering the same questions should align. Invite Students to add illustrations or graphic designs to their final draft of the poem.

Students share their poems in pairs or small groups, then select one to be read aloud in tandem (two readers, each selecting one perspective and taking turns reading each line throughout the poem).

**Assessment:**

5-point Scoring Guide

- 1 point per question for answering the prompt with accurate/plausible responses (4 points possible)
• 1 point for a title that summarizes or introduces the content of the poem

**Materials:**


• Kumeyaay Images:

• Two-Voice Poem Organizer (attached)

• Sample Two-Voice Poem (attached)

**Credits:** Lesson plan adapted from “A Two-Voice Poem about First Contact: Cabrillo and the Kumeyaay” by Katie Hammel. Empires of the Wind NEH Seminar, June 2015.
Two-Voice Poem Organizer: First Contact

A two-voice poem is a conversation between two people or peoples with different points of view. In this case, the Spanish explorers and the native Kumeyaay Indians. The poem takes the form of two verses, presented side-by-side, with one person or group speaking first, and then the other throughout the poem. Build your two-voice poem below. Then add a title and copy your completed poem to the final page. Consider adding illustrations or graphic designs to your final poem.

THE SPANIARDS: How would Cabrillo and his men answer these questions?

1. Where did you come from?
___________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What are you looking for?
___________________________________________________________________________________________

3. How will you treat us?
___________________________________________________________________________________________

4. What do you want from us?
___________________________________________________________________________________________

THE KUMEYAAY: How would the Kumeyaay respond to the Spaniards?

1. Where did you come from?
___________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What are you looking for?
___________________________________________________________________________________________

3. How will you treat us?
___________________________________________________________________________________________

4. What do you want from us?
___________________________________________________________________________________________

TITLE: ________________________________
**Sample Two Voice First Contact Poem**

**When Cultures Meet**

**Spaniards:**

We represent the King of Spain.

We are looking for a route to China.

We claim this land for Spain. You will all become Catholics.

Where is the gold?

**Kumeyaay:**

We have been here since the beginning of time.

We rely on the land and the sea to sustain us.

You are welcome as visitors.

There is no gold, but we will trade with you.