

Grade 2 Lesson 2

Arts Activity: Boats and Knots in a Frame

Lesson Overview

Lesson 2 is about using one of the fundamental pieces of equipment found on a sailboat – the rope – and how it is used. Sailboat knots have been used in arts for a long time and are also an important element of safety on a boat. Developing the skills on how to make various knots is not only useful but it develops the mind and creativity. Students will learn how to make four origami boats from paper, and sailboat knots, within an art activity entitled "Boats and Knots in a Frame".

It is a cross-curricular topic that can be linked to multiple subject areas such as Language Arts, Phys. Ed., Science, Social Studies, Arts, History and Mathematics.

Preparation/Resources

- Need access to YouTube to watch the videos online.
- Four pieces of coloured paper or cardboard to build four boats.
- Five pieces of 40 cm length of about half an inch rope is given to students (i.e. 25 students X 5 ropes = 125 pieces of 40 cm rope). Ropes can have various colours. Red and Blue would be ideal since these are the most common colours used on sailboats.
- 1 straw and paper towel roll or paper toilet roll per student to build the "Clove Hitch" knot to simulate a knot around a pole. Other pieces of material could be used such as pieces of wood, metal or a thicker rope.



- For the background, students can use an old piece of paper with a nice design such as an old map or various textured fabrics.

For the frame, students can bring elements of nature that they can find in their backyard such as pieces of wood; pieces of tree trunk, etc. to simulate a wooden frame.

Description of Activity

Time: 60 minutes

Minds On (5 min)



Hook: "Who has a boat?" "Who has never been on a boat?" "Who can talk about some basic rules while boating?"

Development (50 min or all the period)

Arts Activity Boats and Knots in a Frame (~50 min) Teacher presents video on "Boat Ed's Basic Boating Knots" (2:58).

* Note that many songs about boats have been provided as hyperlinks in the PowerPoint presentation and may be played (and re-played) while kids are doing the activity.

* Prior to beginning the art activity, watch the short video on the parts of a sailboat – PowerPoint presentation slide 4.

Origami: Let's make 4 boats that float slide 6: instructions are provided in the video).

"Let's make knots": Students will make as many knots as they can while watching the video on slide 7.

"Glue and Draw" (slide 8): Instructions are provided on how to build the background.

"Build a frame" (slide 9): Instruction are provided on how to build a frame.

Conclusion (5 min)

Students put their work on the table and walk around to see what their classmates have done and provide constructive (positive) comments about what they like. It develops their critical thinking, sense of observation and appreciation of others' creativity.