

Week 1: Anthropology and Social Organization

Activity: Creating a Clan

Introductions

1. Prepare to give a brief introduction about yourself

Discussion: Anthropology, culture, and our shared culture

2. Access prior knowledge about anthropology
 - 1) What is anthropology? What do anthropologists do?
 - 2) Why is anthropology important?
 - 3) Four fields of anthropology
3. What is culture?
 - 1) Do we share culture?
 - 2) Do we belong to social units that are larger than our immediate families?
 - 3) What aspects of our culture are shared?
 - 4) TMSE culture? Alabama culture? American culture? Etc.
 - 5) Ask students to analyze the culture of their school.

Independent Practice: Creating a Clan

Students will create a clan and define the characteristics of their clan.

4. Goals:
 - 1) Create the culture of their clan. Identify what is important to the clan. Determine what sets their group apart from neighboring groups (music, secret handshake, language, attire, beliefs)
 - 2) emphasize terminology:

Culture: shared knowledge that governs the way that we behave and provides the rules for how we live.

Clan: a group of people who share a common ancestor, real or mythical

Totem: a being, object, or symbols representing an animal or plant that serves as an emblem of a group of people

Rite of passage: an event that marks a change from one stage in life to another

Symbol: object that represents, stands for, or suggests an idea, visual image, belief, or action.

- 3) Materials:
 - i. Boxes- washable markers, crayons, pencils, glue sticks, school scissors, tape
 - ii. Poster board for totems/symbols
 - iii. Paper for attire (optional)
 - iv. Feathers (optional)

Final Comments:

Review points of discussion and terms.

What is anthropology? What is culture?

Is culture shared?

Do we automatically understand someone else's culture?

Name _____

CREATING A CLAN

Culture: shared knowledge that provides the rules for how people live

Clan- a group of people who share a common ancestor, real or mythical

Totem- a being, object or symbol that serves as an emblem of a group of peoples
(can be an idea, plant, animal, thing)

Rite of Passage- an event that marks a change from one stage in life to another

Symbol- object that represents, stands for, or suggests an idea, visual image, belief, or action.

What is your clan name?	Who is the shared ancestor of your clan?
Is there a leader in your clan? If so, how is your leader chosen?	What type of clothing does your clan wear? Draw or describe.
Does your clan have a rite of passage, a clan song, or a clan dance?	What other identifying characteristics does your clan have?

Now, create your clan totem or symbol on a piece of poster board.