

Classically Different Adventures

By: Arianna Ross

Age group: Pre K – 8th grade

Requirements

Two Electrical Sockets

Small Table

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

1. To encourage children to think creatively
2. To cultivate their ability to work as a community
3. To expand their knowledge of other cultures

CONTENTS OF THE PROGRAM

Opening: I will begin from the back of the auditorium doing acrobatics down the aisle stopping midway to teach them a short chant. As an introduction to the story, I will teach them a few words in Hindi thus beginning the body of my performance.

Body: We will go on an imaginary tour to a small village in Rajasthan India. The children will actively participate in the journey as I take them through the market place, the jungle, and a village. I will tell them the unknown story about Gita, the famous Advisor and friend to the King and Queen. They will soon discover that Gita was born only as tall as a thumb, but as wise as anyone could be. Gita's story will sound familiar as it is the Indian version of Tom Thumb or Thumbelina. We will go on many adventures with her and her friends, the animals, the queen, and the princess.

Finale: I bring my program to a close as I share with the children my many artifacts from India. I ask them to climb back into their planes and we head back to the United States. We remind ourselves of the amazing sights we just saw and they have the time to ask questions.

PRE-PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE

Hindi Vocabulary:

Namaste: Hello

Raja: King

Larka: Boy

Bara: Big

Bunder: Monkey

Rani: Queen

Larke: Girl

Chote: Little

Mai Hu: I am

Bhai: Brother

Kamra: room

Ap Kaise Hai?:

Ap Hai: You are

Chai: Tea

Makan: house

How are you?

Geography:

Find Asia and India on a Globe with your Students India and Study geography. Color a map.

How many languages do people in India speak?

There are over fifty official languages. Depending on what region you live in the language you speak may change. The main language of the north is Hindi.

Culture in India:

Read a book of folk tales from India to your students.

Look at pictures of India. Draw a picture of what you think life in India would be like now.

Listen to a tape of Indian music.

Animals:

Read to your students' stories from the Pancharatra.

What kinds of animals live in India? Draw a picture of one of the special animals living in India.\

Like the United States, India has special National and State parks to protect some of their species like the Tiger.

How do animals communicate? Write a story as a class about a conversation between a Lion and a little girl or boy.

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POST-QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The Story:

Imagine that you are as big as a thumb. What kind of adventures would you go on?

Draw a picture of the different animals and people in the story.

Have every child choose his/her favorite character. Create a puppet version of every character. Make up your own puppet show.

These stories are very similar to Aesop's Fables and other Folk Tales in our community. Read to the students other stories where the animals are the hero's and the villains of the story.

Write your own mythical story.

India:

Read them traditional folk tales and contemporary stories. Talk to them about the customs and culture of the country and how it is different from the United States.

Play a word game with all of the new words you have learned.

Watch an India musical film and a documentary. Explore the different dances with your students.

Have your own Diwali, the festival of the lights, in the classroom.

Make a large map of India and have the children divide the map into the different climatic regions. The colder mountainous region should be in one color and the desert another.

In a creative drama exercise they can explore the different environments. As the teacher, you can ask them to close their eyes and imagine they are in the desert. Describe to them the type of animals and plants and the weather. Explain to them that when they open their eyes they should imagine the room they are in is the desert of Rajasthan at sunset. For reference refer to a drama book on environmental dramas.

Animals and their environments:

Read about Lions, Monkeys, Snakes, Elephants, Horses, and Cows and find out what kind of climate and environment they must live in.

Draw a picture of the many animals on our earth.

Play Freeze tag, or Monkey, Monkey, Goose where the children run around as the different animals. The key to both games are when they tag their fellow classmates they change to another animal of their choice.

Write and draw a cartoon strip re-telling the stories you have heard.

Listen to the music of Peter and the Wolf by Prokofieff and Le Carnaval des Animaux by Camille Saint-Saens. Ask the children to identify each animal as they hear it. Ask them how the music portrayed the animal i.e. the very loud low sounds is the lions roar. Take homemade instruments and create your own animal symphony.

The Community We Live in:

Draw a picture of the different people who live in your community.

Talk about why it is important to respect and like everyone even if they are different from you.

What would you do if you met someone different than you? How would you treat them? Write a story about how you would help them if other people were being mean to them.

Ask the children to write a compliment for everyone in the classroom and put it in an envelope. Each student should take the envelope home and read it with their family.

Remind them that everyone in the classroom is from different communities or families. Ask each student to bring in an object from their own house, a dish of food, or a piece of music and share it with the other students.

Resources for Classically Different Adventures available upon request