

Cultural Standards

- 4.1.2:B-2-Discuss the importance of the listener's role in oral tradition.
- 4.1.2:F-2-Describe the role of elders in traditional Native societies.
- 4.1.2:G-2- Identify values (e.g., the importance of sharing, family, community in Native cultures)
- 4.1.3:A-2-Identify types of Native arts & crafts.
- 4.1.3:B-2-Discuss the significance of music & musical instruments (e.g. drums) in Native cultures.
- 4.1.3:C-2-Describe traditional Native dances.
- 4.2.2:C-2-Describe how people influence one another.

MN State Standards

1st Grade Reading

- 1.1.1.1., 1.1.2.2., 1.1.3.3., 1.1.4.4., 1.1.6.6., 1.1.7.7., 1.1.9.9.,

2nd Grade Reading

- 2.1.1.1., 2.1.2.2., 2.1.3.3., 2.1.5.5., 2.1.6.6., 2.1.7.7., 2.1.9.9.,

1st Grade Math

- 1.1.1.1., 1.1.1.2., 1.1.1.3., 1.1.1.4., 1.1.1.5., 1.1.1.6., 1.1.2.1., 1.1.2.2., 1.1.2.3., 1.2.1.1., 1.2.2.2., 1.3.1.1., 1.3.1.2.,

2nd Grade Math

- 2.1.1.1., 2.1.1.2., 2.1.1.4., 2.1.2.2., 2.1.2.3., 2.1.2.5., 2.2.1.1., 2.3.1.1., 2.3.1.2., 2.3.2.1.

Jingle Dress Teachings

Objective: Learn basics of the healing jingle dress

Integration: Math, Literacy, Social Studies

Background Information

Dance is one of the most magnificent expressions in the Native American culture. A celebration of life, dancing is considered a medicinal connection to the earth and every living relative. Today, many contemporary Native people honor their culture by participating in dancing at gatherings called powwows. There are a number of dance styles found at any given powwow in the United States and Canada. One of the more recent styles, the Jingle Dress dance, also known as the Prayer Dance, originated from the Ojibwe people near southwestern Ontario. A story emerged around the 1920's

when the granddaughter of a medicine man became very ill. He had a dream of a woman in a dress with jingles on it that made noise. In the dream, he was told this dance would heal his granddaughter of her sickness. He shared his dream with his community and asked a few women to make this dress. This proved to heal his granddaughter's illness and so, the teachings of the healing dance were given to other tribes. Today, you find the jingle dress style of dance among many intertribal celebrations.

Jingle dresses are decorated with rolled up snuff can lids that are hung with rib-



bon is then sewed to the dress, the jingles are placed close enough so they can hit together, causing a beautiful sound.

Lesson

1. Create a KWL chart with students—what they KNOW, what they WANT to know, and finally, what they LEARNED. (See back page for key questions)
2. Find local Elders to come into the class to discuss the origin of the jingle dress. If an Elder isn't available, contact a local community member who may come into volunteer about their knowledge about the jingle dress.
3. Invite your volunteer to bring in an actual dress, music files with traditional and contemporary jingle dress dance songs. Where do jingle dress dancers go to dance? Do you think jingle dress dancing is hard work? Why or why not?
4. Have volunteer explain how the jingle dress dance came to be and what it takes to make a jingle dress and be a jingle dress dancer.
5. Using a paper cut out dress, have students practice counting, sorting, and making patterns using multi-colored paper jingles and allow students to "make" a paper jingle dress using materials onto Velcro strips on paper dress.
6. Using beadwork pattern color sheets, invite students to color patterns using crayons or other art materials.

Materials:

- Poster board
- Velcro strips
- Yarn
- Markers
- Poster board
- Stapler
- Glue
- Circle craft puncher
- The “Jingle Dancer” book by Cynthia Leitich Smith
- “A Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe” by John D. Nichols & Earl Nyholm

Vocabulary:

Niimi’ - Dance

Dewe’igan—Drum

Ziibaaska’iganagooday-
Jingle Dress

Niimi’iding— Pow wow

Nagamo-Sing

Nanaandawi’- Heal

Bawaajige—Dream



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Discussion Questions

1. What do we know about the jingle dress?
2. What are the traditional roles and how do the genders share in the jingle dress dance?
3. Why is the history of the jingle dress important?
5. What other dance styles are there?
6. Why is the number of jingles on a dress important?
7. What does the origin of the jingle dress tell us about the 7 Grandfather Teachings? What teachings are present?
8. How does the “Jingle Dancer” share traditional Native American values?

Which of the 7 Grandfather Teachings are exhibited in the story?
9. What kind of sound does the dress make? Why do you think that the sound is considered healing?

Evaluation

Ask students to draw three things they learned about the jingle dress.

Enrichment Activities

1. Watch a video about traditional jingle dress dance and their songs.
2. Find local Elders to come into the class to discuss what their experience is with the jingle dress dance. Ask what they remember about it as a child. If an elder isn’t available, contact a local Native community leader to come into volunteer to present about the jingle dress or other styles of dance.
3. Invite a member of the Native community who has made a jingle dress to come in to show the class all the parts it takes to complete a dress.
4. Investigate your own classroom or school. There may be some Native families who have dance regalia who may be able to come in to perform a dance exhibition.
5. Have students complete individual books about what they learned about the jingle dress using drawings, sentences, and math equations.
6. Ask students who have been to a powwow to share stories, bring in photos, or even regalia if they have it to present to their class.
7. Using a paper cut out dress, place a paper jingle onto Velcro strips every morning to use to keep track of how many days of school. By the end of the school year, the class will have made a beautiful dress together.