

Lesson 1: Alaska's State Flag

Objectives:

Students learn about the Alaska State Flag, Benny Benson (13-year old Ak State Flag Designer from Chignik), and get an introduction on star constellations



Essential Questions:

What is a state? What is a flag? Where do we see flags?

What is a star? What is a group of stars? When do we

Alaska Native Values:

See Connections, Honoring ancestors, All things are related, Learning by doing, Observing and listening

Standards:

L10. Follows directions. L11. Uses expanding vocabulary. L3. Listen to, enjoys, and actively participates in stories.
 L4. Remembers details in stories & can tell the story again to someone else.
 L5 Understands that letters have a name and sound.
 L7. Sing, uses finger plays, and recites rhymes or poems. L15. Tells about another time or place
 L20. Uses a variety of writing or art tools. L21: Demonstrate eye hand coordination in different tasks.

Promoting Culture Self Assessment:

1. I display pictures, posters and other materials that reflect the cultures and ethnic backgrounds of children and families served in my early childhood program or setting.

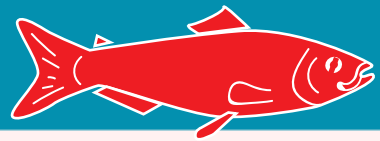
2. I select props for the dramatic play/housekeeping area that are culturally diverse including those that reflect Alaska Native culture (e.g. dolls, clothing, cooking utensils, household articles, furniture).

4. I ensure that toys and play accessories that depict people are representative of the various cultural and ethnic groups both within my community and the society in general.

8. I play a variety of music including Alaska Native music and introduce musical instruments from many cultures including Alaska Native.component of program curricula.

Art Center	Whole Group	Math Center
Materials: Benny Benson printout (one for each student) Benny Benson printout Popsicle sticks Glue scissor	Materials: Pre-Punched Stars from the yellow card stock paper Blue cardstock paper Glue Popsicle sticks Alaska state stencil	Materials: Star Punchers Glue Paper Popsicle sticks Pencils/markers
Activity: Students cut out Benny Benson figure and glue it to the popsicle stick. They can use the figure to act out Benny Benson and how he drew our state flag.	Activity: As a class, cut out 7 yellow stars (small) and one large yellow star. Have students count aloud as they put them on the blue paper to make a flag. Use Alaska State stencil to put a small dot where each star should go. Place a dab of glue on each dot then have students glue the stars on.	Activity: Have students arrange stars into their own design to make a flag. They can also draw or design additional things to their flag to make it unique! Have students count aloud the stars they have on their flag. Place a popsicle stick under drawing with glue on both sides. Glue a separate paper on the back and have students share their flags with their classmates.

Activity



Engage: Whole Group Activity: Making a Flag

Show puppet of Benny Benson. "Hi Class! (in voice pretending to be Benny Benson) I was once a young boy a long time ago before Alaska was even a state. Alaska is the state that we all live in now. Our village name is _____, and our state name is Alaska. When I was a boy I lived in a village named Chignik. There was a bad flu and my mom died. I was very sad. I had to move away and go to another school in Seward. where I drew this picture that would be picked to be our state flag. Now people all over Alaska hang this flag because it is our state flag. It is something everyone all over in Alaska can share together because we all belong to one state."

"Would you like to see my flag I made?"

Demonstrate: Describe the flag. "I used blue to show our big Alaska sky, and it's also the color of our state flower the Forget-Me-Not." "The stars show the Big Dipper which is also a part of The Great Bear- those are both groups of stars that are always together in the sky. A long time ago, my ancestors, and maybe yours too, traveled from far, far away using stars to help them know where they were going. This big star is the Northern Star. It's a bright star outside and it lets people know which way is north. Alaska is the farthest northern state so that's why I thought I should put that star on our state flag too."

Put Benny Benson down. (In your normal voice) "Would you like to make a flag like Benny Benson?"

"Let's count how many stars are on the flag. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8. 8 stars. Are all the stars the same size? No, you're right, this one is bigger! This must be the Northern Star that Benny Benson was talking about."

Explore: Touch, Agturu, Agtur, Vandaniilchit

Activity : On one side show students where to glue stars on to represent the Alaska flag. Use the Alaska State Stencil to help you make marks with a pencil where each star should be placed. Then add a dab of glue on each spot. Have them practice counting stars when they are finished.

Ask: "Can you count the stars for me? Which star is big? Which star is small?" After students are finished gluing stars onto paper, insert a popsicle stick with glue on both sides of half the stick and glue it on to the inside of the flag. Allow to dry.

Explain: Talking, Niugtuk, Qalarte, Qenax

Explain: "Nice job! You all made wonderful flags. Now you can take home Benny Benson and share your flag! Ask your parents, uppas/gram if they know who Benny Benson was.

We have a state flag to show others what state we live in and Benny Benson made our flag blue to show the sky and he made yellow stars to show the group of stars that we will be learning about this week, the Big Dipper and the Great Bear."

Later today, you can go to the art center and make your own Benny Benson puppet.

Evaluation

Emerging:

Students did not participate.

Developing:

Student listened to story of Benny Benson but did not make a flag or understand the connection between the flag and Benny Benson.

Proficient:

Student listened to story and actively participated in making a flag and Benny Benson figure.

Advanced: Student made a flag and was able to count stars. Student also made Benny Benson figure and is able to remember one fact about the figure (his name, where he was from, his mother dies, he made the flag, he lived in Seward).