



Curriculum

Module 2 - Overview

Indigenous peoples of the Americas

The Story of the Yanomami People

Suitable for Upper Primary

Core Learning Outcomes Levels 3 and 4

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MODULE TITLE: INDIGENOUS TRIBES OF THE AMAZON - THE STORY OF THE YANOMAMI PEOPLE

This module will focus on SOSE Learning Outcomes Levels 3 and 4 and can be carried out over an 8 week duration.

CORE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Time, Continuity and Change:

Cause and Effect

TCC 3.4 Students organise information about the causes and effects of specific historical events.

TCC 4.4 Students critique information sources to show the positive and negative effects of a change or continuity on different groups.

Heritage

TCC 4.5 Students review and interpret heritages from diverse perspectives to create a preferred future scenario about a global issue.

Place and Space:

Human Environment and Relationships

PS3.1 Students compare how diverse groups have used and managed natural resources in different environments.

PS 4.1 Students make justifiable links between ecological and economic factors and production and consumption of a familiar resource.

Culture and Identity:

Cultural Diversity

CI 3.1 Students identify the contributions of diverse groups including migrants and indigenous peoples, to the development of their community.

Cultural Perceptions

CI 3.2 Students identify others' perceptions that reflect stereotyping, discrimination or harassment to develop a plan that promotes more peaceful behaviours.

CI 4.2 Students design an ethical code of personal behaviour based on their perceptions of cultural groups.

Systems, Resources and Power

Interactions between ecological and other systems

SRP 3.1 Students make inferences about interactions between people and natural cycles, including the water cycle.

Participation and Decision Making

SRP 3.3 Students apply the principles of democratic decision-making in co-operative projects.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Yanomami ("human being") are the largest indigenous nation in the Americas that still retains their traditional way of life. They had very little contact with the modern world before the 1980s from which time they suffered hugely from Brazilian goldminers invading their land. The miners shot them, destroyed their villages, and exposed them to diseases to which they had no immunity. These illegal gold prospecting activities have introduced other problems such as alcoholism and Mercury contamination. Twenty percent of the Yanomami died in just seven years due to massacres and diseases brought by non-indigenous invaders.

The Amazon is the largest tropical rainforest and the largest river basin in the world. It is located in South America and has an area of more than 2.8 million square miles, almost as big as Australia.

THE BRINK TEAM

The Brink team will be working closely with Oxfam and Survival International to raise awareness for the plight of the indigenous tribes and their natural environment in the mighty Amazon. They will be hoping to visit Yanomami villages.

EARTH CHARTER

The indigenous people of South America have sought to care for their environment to ensure sustainability. Contact with non-indigenous has put this under threat. This unit aims to tie in closely with the principles expressed in Earth Charter, which is a declaration of “fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the 21st century”. This module aims to heighten the awareness of students of the need to unite across cultures and to choose our future, to preserve nature and to respect and recognise human rights, especially those of the Yanomami tribe of South America, and to “affirm their right to their spirituality, knowledge, resources.....and to their related practice of sustainable livelihoods.” Earth Charter 12b)

This unit will also endeavour to encourage children to take action and to act responsibly for the present and to” recognise and preserve the traditional knowledge, and spiritual wisdom in the Yanomami culture that contributes to environmental protection and human well-being”(Earth Charter - 8b)

RATIONALE

This module aims to instil in children, an understanding and heightened appreciation of the culture of the indigenous tribe – the Yanomami, of South America. In doing so, children will gain knowledge of the unique Amazon rainforest region, and explore the cultural aspects of the Yanomami that are linked to this environment. They will gain an awareness of the threats to both the Amazon and the Yanomami people and the impact of non-indigenous culture upon both the people and the environment. Students will be introduced to critical thinking skills, so as to analyse different resources and media forms, and to develop their own ideas, arguments, and opinions. They will be given opportunities to evaluate and express their feelings and to develop just and democratic action plans.

KEY VALUES

The significant key values underlying this module are that of, Ecological and economic sustainability, Social Justice and Peace. These values are defined in the SOSE Syllabus. The activities are designed and sequenced to enable all students to develop an understanding of how the Yanomami will ensure sustainability by catering for their cultural needs whilst maintaining the integrity of their natural environment. The module will also seek to involve the children in activities that promote the positive relations with others and with the environment and to investigate the belief that all cultures share a common humanity and therefore have a right to equitable treatment and a fair allocation of community resources.