

Angie Hamilton
Dyersburg Primary School
Dyersburg, TN

Lesson Title: Learning a New Environment

Grade Level: 1st Grade – Social Studies

Overview: Lower elementary students have a difficult time adjusting to a new environment. If they feel comfortable in their surroundings, then learning can take place.

Purpose: This activity, which should be introduced at the beginning of the school year, is to orientate students to their surroundings.

Objective (s): As a result of this activity, the students will:

1. Locate specific places in the school on a map.
2. Visit specific places in the school setting such as principal's office, restrooms, lunch room and playground.
3. Learn rules and responsibilities associated with specific settings including places within the school that are off limits.

Resources/Materials:

Butcher paper

Markers

Individual maps of the building

Crayons

Construction paper

Scissors

Story book

Map of Tennessee (pre-1838) - <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200700000002685>

Map of downtown Knoxville, Tennessee - <http://idserver.utk.edu/?id=200700000001487>

Activities and Methods:

1. The teacher will show the students different types of maps and explain why we use maps.
2. The teacher will make a large wall map of specific places within the school building with white roll paper. Different colors should be used for each place.
3. The teacher should prepare doors, water fountains, etc. with construction paper in the same color as specific places shown on the classroom map.
4. The student will be given a small outline map. They will locate specific areas and color them to match large wall map. Off limit places will be marked with an X.
5. The students will use individual maps to answer teacher made multiple choice questions orally.

6. The teacher will take the students on a building tour (along with maps and markers) as they visit each area stop long enough for students to mark the maps. They will learn the rules of each area.
7. The students will make a special trip to the principal's office, and as a special treat the principal will read a story to them.
8. The student will color the individual maps of the school setting. They will cut the map into pieces and use as a puzzle.

Tying it all together: It can be used at the beginning of the year to orientate students to their surroundings. If students feel welcome and warm, it enhances the learning process. When they know and respect the rules of the school setting, makes the environment a better place for everyone involved.