

Lacrosse, a sport currently played around the world, originated with the American Indians centuries before the first Europeans arrived in North America.



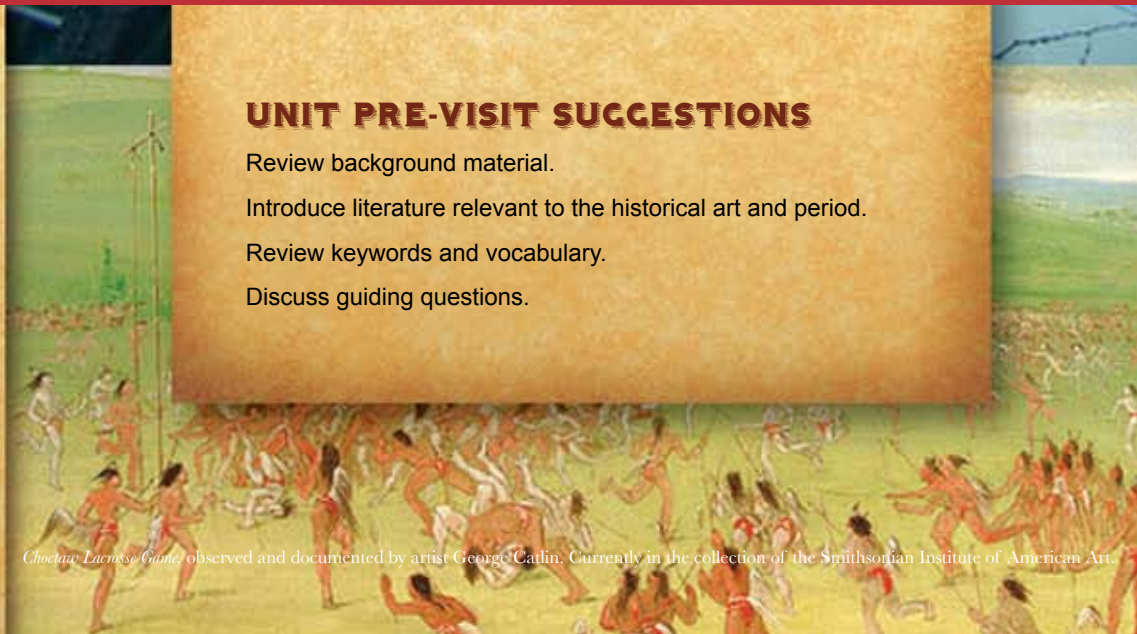
Lesson: THE LEGACY OF LACROSSE



UNIT PRE-VISIT SUGGESTIONS

- Review background material.
- Introduce literature relevant to the historical art and period.
- Review keywords and vocabulary.
- Discuss guiding questions.

Choctaw Lacrosse Game, observed and documented by artist George Catlin. Currently in the collection of the Smithsonian Institute of American Art.



KEYWORDS & VOCABULARY

Iroquois - a member of the confederacy of the North American Indian peoples comprising six tribal groups and sharing a common language origin in the north-eastern part of America and up into Canada.

lacrosse - a game attributed to the Iroquois, played with a ball and hooked sticks with small nets attached to the hook at an angle. Each player carries a long-handled racket, called a "crosse." The ball is not handled but caught with the crosse and carried on it, or tossed from it, the object being to carry it or throw it through one of the goals placed at opposite ends of the field. Originally played to merit the favor of the gods.

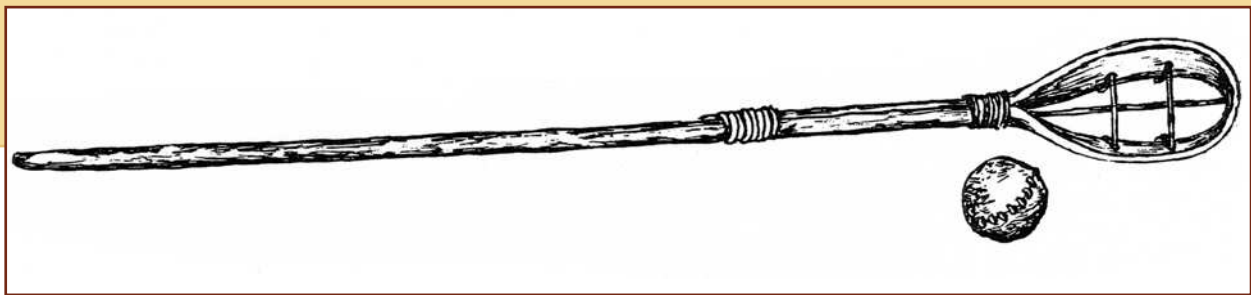
crozier - any implement having a bent or crooked end.

Guiding Questions

What is the significance of Lacrosse to the Iroquois, and also the world?

What other kinds of games did American Indians play?

Are the Iroquois still playing Lacrosse today?



Lacrosse stick and ball

Differentiated Instruction

As needed for exceptional students, students will be paired to facilitate activity successes. As needed for gifted, use resource list for additional information and challenges.

Materials Needed

Fort provided RESOURCE BOX will contain the following: Period examples and all materials needed for hands-on activity.

Teacher will provide the following: Large area for physical activity.

Grade Ranges

K-2 students throw the soft lacrosse ball using the lacrosse stick

3-6 students use the stick to score a goal

7-12 students will play adolescent lacrosse

Background



Choctaw Lacrosse Game Dress, observed and documented by artist George Catlin. Currently in the collection of the Smithsonian Institute of American Art.

Popular among many disparate tribes, lacrosse was a special passion of the Iroquois, and it was their version that gave rise to the modern sport. By the mid 1800s, the Iroquois teams were playing matches and spreading enthusiasm for the game in Montreal and other parts of Canada, in several cities in the United States, and then in Great Britain. By 1878 lacrosse had reached Australia and New Zealand. American Indian teams were barred in 1880 from international amateur competition because some of them had accepted expense money for their trips. It was not until the 1980s that the Iroquois reentered the global arena. Since that time, all-star Iroquois teams have taken part in the World Games and other international tournaments, proudly playing the sport that has remained, as a great Iroquois player has said, “ingrained in our culture and our lives.”

Conover, Adele. “Little Brother of War”
Smithsonian Magazine. December 1997

Lacrosse, a sport currently played around the world, originated with the American Indians centuries before the first Europeans arrived in North America. According to Iroquois tradition, the game was an ancient gift from the Creator, a divine contest to be played for his pleasure and propitiation. Athletes took to the field to settle communal disputes, to beseech the spirits to send down rain for the spring corn, or to ask for divine help in healing the sick.

Early European explorers were astonished to witness hundreds of players competing on fields that stretched for more than a mile. It was a French missionary who in the 1600s gave the sport its present name, noting that the bent sticks used by the Indians resembled a bishop’s crook, or crosier.

Artist Profile



Artist Jud Hartmann with sculpture

Jud Hartmann

A sculpture by Jud Hartmann stands outside the Lacrosse Hall of Fame on the campus of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. An inscription at the statue's base reads in part "The game of Lacrosse was given by the Creator of the Ho-de-no-saunee (Iroquois) and other American Indian people many ages ago. It is from the Iroquois that the modern game most directly descends. May this sculpture forever honor the Iroquois and the origins of Lacrosse." For more about this artist, see www.judhartmanngallery.com/.



Lacrosse by Jud Hartmann

VISIT

Learning Plan and Notes to Instructor

This lesson is a hands-on activity and will require demonstration.

Methods

Students will learn about the origins and principles of the game and its direct connection from the Iroquois to modern America. Students will also have the opportunity to enact their learning in demonstration and application of the rules of the game.

Procedures

The artisan will visit the classroom and present a training demonstration on the art and history of lacrosse. Students will play an adolescent version of lacrosse.



Lacrosse sticks

K-2 Tossing the Ball

Basic instruction will be demonstrated on throwing the soft lacrosse ball using the lacrosse stick.

3-6 Scoring a goal, getting favor from the gods

Basic instruction will be demonstrated on using the stick to score a goal. The history will be integrated in this lesson.

7-12 Playing Adolescent Lacrosse

Basic instruction will be given on the rules of the game and using the equipment provided, students will play adolescent lacrosse.

LACROSSE ASSESSMENT

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____

1. Who originated Lacrosse?
2. What equipment is needed to play the game?
3. Where does the statue by Jud Hartmann stand and why is this place significant?
4. Why was the statue erected?
5. For what other reason than sport did the Iroquois 'play' Lacrosse?
6. Why were the Iroquois prevented from playing and when did they gain the respect they deserved?
7. What is a 'crosier'?
8. What other games did American Indians play?
9. How were hunting skills taught through games?
10. What is the lasting effect of lacrosse on the world?

Answer Key

1. The Iroquois
2. Sticks, goal, ball. Also pads, helmets, etc.
3. Baltimore, Maryland outside the Lacrosse Hall of Fame.
4. To "forever honor the Iroquois from whom the modern game of Lacrosse descends"
5. To beseech the spirits to send rain, to heal the sick, settle communal disputes, etc.
6. They took money for their traveling expenses and were readmitted in the 1980s.
7. The bent stick used by a bishop that served as an associative for the lacrosse stick.
8. Ring Pin, Begging Sticks, Card Games
9. Games teach social development and life skills including team work. They also improve skill, accuracy, and agility necessary for hunting.
10. Although it has lost much of its spiritual significance to the people of the world, the reach and popularity of this sport have touched all corners of the earth. World Games and international tournaments are held every year.

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

Name of student _____

Title/topic of art lesson _____

Date _____

Analytic Performance Rubric:

Ratings:

1. Takes ownership of the skill or art learned with mastery.
2. Takes ownership of the skill or art learned with proficiency.
3. Takes limited ownership of the skill or art learned.
4. Takes little ownership of the skill or art learned.
5. Takes no ownership of the skill or art learned.

_____ A. Knowledge of the art/skill.

_____ B. Knowledge of the historical connection.

_____ C. Knowledge of the guiding and evaluation questions.

_____ D. Skill of the art presented.

_____ E. Total points.

Feedback to student:

Constructive direction to student for further learning:

Conversion of analysis to grade: _____

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

See Ring Pin Game and Begging Sticks in Making Colonial Toys Lesson.

American Indian Card Game

Have students make 'playing cards' from bark shaped pieces of oaktag with pictographs on them and play a game similar to Go Fish or a memory/matching game, etc.

Play Begging Sticks

Begging Sticks was a game often played by Indians here in the east. It was played in idle time and as a gambling game.

Materials

To play Begging Sticks, you'll need:

- an even number of wood or antler disks painted red on one side and left white on the other
- several sticks painted red
- an equal number of sticks unpainted (left white)
- a wooden bowl that will hold all the disks (in one layer)

How to Play

Begging Sticks was usually played by two people, but you can play with two teams. Place all the disks in the bowl with equal numbers of each color showing. The red and white teams should both have an equal number of sticks before the game starts. Either team may start the game by picking up the bowl and tapping it on the ground hard enough to make most of the disks flip over and jump around. After the bowl is flipped, each team counts the number of disks of their color. The team who has the least disks of their color must give one of their sticks to the other team. Then the other team taps the bowl on the ground. The teams alternate tapping the bowl and winning/losing sticks until one team has all the sticks. The team with all the sticks wins.