

# Exploring Language Experience

*This project was extremely worthwhile and beneficial to my students because it integrated all areas of my second grade curriculum into an active learning experience that involved a meaningful subject to the children: our local community. My students had the opportunity to become acquainted with various members of our community, to learn about their careers and goals, and to write about these experiences and share this new knowledge with others.*

## Curriculum/State Standard

PA standards: Learning to read independently, reading critically in all content areas, identifying types of writing: informational, narrative, or opinion with supporting facts, details and relevant illustrations with the main focus being on the quality of writing.

## Overview

My second grade class planned and participated in a monthly field trip to local destinations in our community as the culminating activity to a specific unit of study. We generated ideas, connected curriculum themes with community resources and businesses, and participated in several relevant field trips. Photos were taken and later displayed. Stories were written, published, and read aloud. Illustrations were created. A sight word vocabulary was chosen and built upon with each successive field trip. A class presentation was made upon completion of the project.

## Objectives

- The student will demonstrate fluency and comprehension in reading.
- The student will acquire a reading vocabulary by identifying and correctly using specific words.
- The student will read text using self-monitoring and comprehension strategies.
- The student will demonstrate understanding and interpretation of high-interest, integrated text.
- The student will write with a focus by identifying the topic and task and well-developed content.
- The student will edit, publish written work, and present finished products to an audience.

*Continued on the back...*

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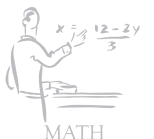
GRADE LEVEL



ARTS



LANGUAGE



MATH

Misc

MISCELLANEOUS



SCIENCE



HISTORY



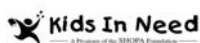
SOCIAL STUDIES

# 6

MONTHS

# \$470

TOTAL BUDGET



THIS WINNING LESSON PLAN WAS SUBMITTED BY:

Christy M. Szafran  
Smedley Street Elementary School  
310 Smedley Street, Oil City, PA 16301

# “Exploring Language Experience” project continued...

## Materials

Chair Pockets for storing LEA stories and materials, word card boxes and file cards, disposable cameras, poster board, large, lined easel paper, markers, paper, high lighters

## Readiness Activity

We created a KWL chart and discussed field trip ideas, objectives, and learning that connected to our specific completed units of study. The class was arranged in 3 cooperative learning groups with a photographer assigned in each group. The groups had to reach a consensus on which type of writing should or might be employed: narrative, informational, opinion, etc., and the field trip plans and details were then completed in a timely fashion.

## Strategies/Activities

1. Plan a monthly field trip based upon the completion of a specific unit of study.
2. Focus on a particular content area, create a KWL chart regarding the field trip destination, and plan accordingly in order to meet all of the objectives.
3. Arrange students in cooperative groups of six students.
4. Participate in a pre-arranged field trip into the community and assign one student in each group to be the photographer who records all of the highlights of the visit.
5. Complete the KWL chart and discuss the field trip ideas, events, and learning.
6. Each group chooses type of writing: narrative, informational, opinion, etc.,

7. Students in each group dictate story regarding each field trip as a special event.
8. Write story, choose 9 sight words plus 1 challenge word and print words on note cards.
9. Continue language experience activities throughout the week such as: reading aloud the story as a group and individually, playing review word games using phonics and context clues, alphabetizing word cards and illustrating favorite sentence or main idea of the story.
10. Make individual copies of student stories, edit, save good copy, and bind books for students to keep upon completion of the project.
11. Create photo display and label each picture.
12. Invite a representative from each field trip activity to a special class presentation that includes: students reading aloud stories, writing and presenting thank you notes and showing photo displays. Field trips:  
December - local grocery store for math/ health;  
January -YMCA for health;  
February - Planetarium for science;  
March - hospital for health/ social studies;  
April - nursing home for social studies;  
May - greenhouse/ nursery for science

## Culminating Activity

My students invited representatives from each field trip activity to a special class presentation, an LEA Celebration (Language Experience Approach) held in our auditorium that included: field trip photo collage displays and the students reading aloud their stories based on the visits as well as an oral and written thank you to the people involved in our project.

## Evaluation

**Oral:** individual student oral reading, group discussion and student presentations.

**Written:** anecdotal records, sight word checklist, rubric, teacher observation, published written work and reading exam scores.