Title: Now and Then Bags

Source: Mrs. Pio (host teacher)

Zoey Dwiggins

Standards:

* 1st grade
  + Theme: Families Now and Long Ago, Near and Far
  + Strand: History
  + Topic: Historical Thinking and Skills
  + Content Statement 1: Time can be divided into categories (e.g., months of the year, past, present, and future)
  + Content Statement 2: Photographs, letters and artifacts and books can be used to learn about the past
* 1st grade
  + Theme: Families Now and Long Ago, Near and Far
  + Strand: History
  + Topic: Heritage
  + Content Statement 3: The way basic human needs are met has changed over time

Objectives:

* Students will be able to identify common themes from a group of pictures.
* Students will be able to contrast whether a picture of an object is from the past or the present (Now and Then)

Key Vocabulary and Academic Language

* Vocab
  + Past
  + Present
  + Then
  + Now
  + Transportation
  + Communication
  + Clothing
  + Machines
  + School
* Academic Language
  + Compare
  + Contrast
  + Identify

Key Concept

* Then & Now (Past vs. Present)

Materials:

* 5 brown paper bags (4 for the students and 1 for modeling)
* 25 Venn Diagram worksheets
* Pictures that represent the categories (communication, machines, transportation, and school)
* Markers
* Glue
* Scissors
* Smart Board

Procedures:

1. First, we will be modeling our Then and Now Bag lesson for the class. To do this we will have our own bags that have images from then and now in relation to clothing. We will each select pictures from the bag and determine through comparing and contrasting if the image is showing something done in the past or present.
2. The students will then get bags at each of their tables that corresponds to a certain main idea (transportation, communication, school, and machines). After the students have determined if the pictures in the bags are from then or now and the main idea we will have the students rotate.
3. After all the students have been to all four bag stations we will have the students meet us on the carpet to discuss the main ideas from each of the bags.
4. Finally, we will have a Venn diagram on the Smart Board that we will use to model how to do the assessment worksheet. We will explain to them that they need to take the pictures we give them and glue them in the appropriate circle, Then or Now.

Assessment:

        For the assessment, we will give each students a Venn diagram and pictures of objects from then and now. On their own, they will have to cut out the pictures and glue them onto the Venn diagram under Then or Now. We will check for understanding by having them turn in their papers after they are finished and checking them.

Candidate Reflection:

        Overall after finishing the lesson I feel a lot more confident about teaching but even more comfortable teaching social studies. I was nervous before I taught the lesson that the students would have no idea what I was talking about and look up at me during the lesson puzzled. It was exactly the opposite. When I pulled out the mysterious brown paper bags my students were asking questions and fully engaged in my lesson. I could see an inquiry based lesson taught in an actual classroom which was interesting to see. Looking back at the lesson I think that I could have made the “Then and Now” cards harder that were inside the bags. They were surprisingly very good at creating themes for each of the bags. However, it got to the point where my students were bored and disinterested because the cards were too easy to guess the themes of then and now from the cards.

        As far as teaching goes I am realizing that each time I stand up in front of the class it gets easier and easier. I could come up with more questions as I guided the students through the lesson and I am getting better at what to say when no one volunteers to answer my questions. I think I learned a lot about myself too because I tend to get nervous about talking in front of people but with my students they do not care if I look anxious. I also had no idea how long it would take to plan a lesson. It was not time consuming writing it up but just figuring out what I wanted to do and how I was going to execute it was the challenging part for me. When the students hugged me at the end of the lesson and told me I was going to be a wonderful teacher I think that I realized all the planning and anxiety was worth it.

        If I was to do this lesson again I think I would try to engage my students more by creating a hook. By sparking engagement students would be more drawn to the lesson and excited to learn. In addition to this I would also change the pictures and themes that go inside the brown mystery bags. I think adding in more content is what needed to be done in the bags to make the lesson just a little bit more difficult. I would add more challenging images and some bags could have a short story about an invention rather than just an image. It would also be better to have an interesting intro rather than just jumping straight into modeling the lesson. Even though there are a couple things that I would have changed I still think this was a thought-provoking lesson that teaches kids about then and now in an inquiry based way.