

Stories in the Sky

Upper Primary

Activity 4

'My Outdoor Classroom' Lesson Plan

English

- Create literary texts using realistic and fantasy settings and characters that draw on the worlds represented in texts students have experienced (ACELT1612)
- Create literary texts that adapt or combine aspects of texts students have experienced in innovative ways (ACELT1618)

Elaborate on, extend and integrate this activity with other learning where possible.

Resources:

- Printed 'My Outdoor Classroom' Nature Passport booklets
- A sky full of clouds
- A blanket or something comfy to sit on (optional)

Class :

Date :

Weather :

Introduction

For this challenge, your class will be making up collaborative stories based on shapes in the clouds. Use this activity as both a Geography lesson and an imaginative story-writing project in the English curriculum.

Before You Head Out



Consider using a camera or the Nature Passport App to take photos and record the activity (See the Reflection/Discussion section for further details).

- Show images of different types of clouds, the different names for them and discuss what they tell us about the weather.
- Go outside, look at the sky and identify the types of clouds you see and what they indicate about the weather.
- Overlay some pictures of clouds with simple images (shapes, animals, objects) to show how the shapes clouds make can resemble different things.
- Divide your class into small groups of 2-4 students.

Stories in the Sky Activity Steps



Go into the schoolyard and, as a class, find a good place to sit or lay down and watch clouds.

- ② Split into your groups of 2-4 students.
- ③ As a group, notice and discuss the types of clouds you see. What interesting cloud shapes do you see? What do they remind you of? Record (draw and write about them) in your Nature Passport Booklet or Field Journal.
- ④ Create characters. Take inspiration from the clouds and come up with some characters to star in your story.
- ⑤ Name your characters.
- ⑥ Start your 'Sky Story' with "Once upon a time..."
- ⑦ Take turns telling a piece of the story. Always begin your part with, "Yes, and then..."

Tip:

We recommend that you set a timer (eg: 1 minute) to mark how long students spend looking at the clouds before getting to work recording the shapes and creating characters for their stories.



You can download the free **Nature Passport** app on both the **App Store** and **Google Play Store** to complete this activity and many more!

Visit the website at www.naturepassport.org, where you'll find lots of useful information for families and teachers on how best to use Nature Passport.

Reflection/Discussion

- Have each group give a quick summary to the class of their story, its characters, and any conflict and resolution in the plotline.
- Discuss what makes a good story. A battle? A happy ending?
- As a class reflect on which types of clouds are best for making interesting shapes and characters.

Elaboration/Extension Ideas

- Discuss collaborative storytelling as a form of improvisation. A trick improv comedians use to make scenes funny is to always agree with what has been said before, no matter how ridiculous it is. Based on this, set a goal as a class for your storytelling session: don't reverse another person's idea; instead, build on it!

