

Lesson #3 – Immigration – The Keeping Quilt

Subject Area: Social Studies, Reading, and English

Grade: 4/5

Time Frame: 2/3 – 45 minute period

Objectives: By this lesson, the students will understand the value of customs and traditions within their families and the Aquidneck Island Community, including the immigrants who settled in this part of the state bringing their own unique contributions and heritage. The students will investigate their own heritage and cultural background so they can appreciate how diversity adds to their everyday life.

Standards: I, III, IV

Materials:

- *The Keeping Quilt*, By: Patricia Polacco
- Quilt square hand-out

Learner Factors: This activity will benefit the visual and auditory learners by the picture book being read aloud to them. The kinesthetic learners will benefit from the opportunity to work in groups as well as the production of a quilt square.

Motivational Activity: Review with the students the definition of an immigrant and who an immigrant is. The teacher will read aloud *The Keeping Quilt*, stopping occasionally to think aloud about predictions or questions of what is being read.

Lesson Development: The teacher will have students work with a partner to come up with questions to ask their parents about their family background. The teacher may want to chart some questions to get the students started. For homework the students will interview their parents and/or grandparents and find the answers to their questions about their family heritage. They should record their findings and bring them to school the next day.

Closure: Give the students a copy of the quilt square hand-out. They will also need crayons, markers, scissors, etc. Tell them they are going to design a quilt square that represents their family heritage and culture. They should choose colors, designs, and words that reflect who they are. Together the teacher and the students will create a quilt of the entire class with the quilt squares that each individual student created to represent themselves and their cultural background. The quilt can be hung in the classroom for all to see and appreciate throughout the unit or lessons.

Follow-Up: In the next lesson, the students will understand why immigrants settled in certain geographic areas of Aquidneck Island.

Extended Activity:

- Compare/contrast on chart paper individual traditions to the traditional events that occur on Aquidneck Island each year.

Student Assessment: As the lesson is progressing, the teacher will check to assess that the students are working in groups, partners, and individually.