Vietnamese Ethnic Awareness Unit. The Best of BES.

Greater Erie Community Action Committee, PA.; Southwest Educational Development Lab., Austin, Tex.


82

31p.

Guides - Classroom Use - Guides (For Teachers) (052)

MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.

Bilingualism; Cultural Activities; *Cultural Awareness; Cultural Background; Early Childhood Education; Elementary Education; Folk Culture; Food; Instructional Materials; Learning Activities; Multilingual Materials; Music; Parent Participation; Vietnamese; *Vietnamese People

Basic Educational Skills Project; Head Start Supplementary Training Program; Holidays; PF Project

One of a series of documents produced by a nationwide network of early childhood education specialists, teachers, parents, and Head Start staff, the unit presents eight lessons which present background information on the Vietnamese people. Arranged by grade level (Head Start-Grade 5), the lessons provide for parent participation and adaptation. Lesson topics include Vietnamese language, numbers and expressions, food, customs, holidays, music, famous people, and traditional folklore. A resource list of multicultural materials concludes the document. (LH)
VIETNAMESE ETHNIC AWARENESS UNIT

Information Received By
Hunh Hoang, Head Start Parent

Unit Provided By
The Basic Educational Skills Project

THE BEST OF BES
MADE BY TEACHERS
COMPiled BY SEDL, AUSTIN, TX.
FUNDED BY ACYF, WASHINGTON, DC

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Greater Erie Community Action Committee
Basic Educational Skills
13 West Ninth Street
Erie, PA 16501
459-4581
INTRODUCTION

Vietnam, nicknamed the Smaller Dragon, is largely a hot jungle country. It is located in Southeast Asia, stretching 1,000 miles along the coast of the continent. China borders the north of Vietnam; Laos and Cambodia are located to the west of Vietnam. The South China Sea borders the east and south.

Vietnam is a mixture of cultures and religions. The people's roots trace back to China, India, Indonesia, Cambodia and the Polynesian Islands. Their religions include Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism and Christianity.

Throughout Vietnam's history, the various cultures, peoples and religions have clashed. The following modern Vietnamese poem vividly reflects the plight of this country:

1. 

4
NIGHTMARE
by The Lu

I dreamed I lay in a puddle of blood,
propped on one elbow, howling souls all around;
sunset colors crackling and everything
plunged in screaming red.
Suddenly I realized this was life,
no beauty or pleasure, on escape
in gentle dreams, or laughter
that wouldn't turn to sobs.
Malevolent fate knew what she wanted
from me: She'd pin me down to struggle
on the earth's surface like an ant
or mosquito. She'd bind my limbs,
release, pursue, and bind again.
If only this petty body would dissolve!
But she shakes my soul, pries open my eyes,
while, from the brink of an abyss, a severe hand
forces me to look at the enormity of the world
where men are drinking hot blood,
swallowing some spitting the rest at each othe.

A Thousand Years of Vietnamese Poetry,
TITLE: Vietnamese Language

GRADE LEVEL: Preschool - 5th grade

OBJECTIVE: To make children aware of the Vietnamese language.

MATERIALS: Magazines
Drawing paper
Crayons, Paints, or Markers
Paste

INTRODUCTION: airplane - máy bay
baby - đứa trẻ
ball - trái bánh
basket - cái rổ
bicycle - xe đạp
bird - chim
book - sách
boy - đứa con trai
car - xe hơi
cat - mèo
chair - ghế
door - cửa lớn
elevator - thang máy
flag - cờ
girl - con gái
horse - con ngựa
house - nhà
ice - nước độc
toa, door - nhà
iron - sắt
jump - nhảy
key - chìa khóa
kitchen - bếp
leaf - lá
library - thư viện
medicine - thuốc
mirror - gương
money - tiền
newspaper - tờ báo
nurse - y tá
ocean - Thái
paint - sơn
pajamas - đồ ngủ
queen - nữ hoàng
refrigerator - tủ lạnh
school - tru'o'ng học
soap - xà bông
sun - mặt trời
ble - bàn
TV or television - ti-vi
toothbrush - bàn chải răng
uncle - chú
under - phá đa
vehicle - xe
village - làng
wheel - bánh xe
Xray - chiếu điện
yard - thu'o'c anh
zip code - khu bu'u chính

ACTIVITIES: Have the children draw or find pictures for several of the above words. Pictures should be mounted and labeled in both languages.

ADAPTATION: A. Children may wish to make a picture dictionary.

B. Make greeting cards for the various school celebrated holidays. (Halloween, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, etc.). Include the greeting in Vietnamese as well as English. (There are several English/Vietnamese dictionaries available at the public library.)

PARENT Your Vietnamese parents may enjoy making a picture dictionary of

PARTICIPATION: familiar Vietnamese articles or sites to share with the class.

American National Red Cross, 1975.
TITLE: Vietnamese Language--Numbers and Expressions

GRADE LEVEL: Preschool - 5th grade

OBJECTIVES: Students will recognize, by sight, basic Vietnamese expressions and the numbers one through ten in Vietnamese.

Students will be able to verbally express, in Vietnamese, the numbers one through ten and/or several Vietnamese phrases.

MATERIALS: Vietnamese - English Dictionaries (optional)
Vietnamese Flash Cards (teacher-made)
Vietnamese Labels (teacher-made)

INTRODUCTION: one - mot
two - hai
three - ba
four - bon
five - nam
six - sau
seven - bay
eight - tam
nine - chin
ten - muoi

Happy Birthday - vui ngay sinh nhat
I Love you - toi yeu anh
My name is _______ - ten toi la _______
Good Morning - chao buoi sang
Good Night - chao buoi toi
Good Byes - chao tam biet
Hello - chao
Happy New Year - chuc mung nam moi
Merry Christmas - chuc mung Noel

ACTIVITIES: Teach the class to pronounce and recognize by sight the included basic language expressions and numbers. Flash cards and labels will be helpful. Be sure to recruit the help of your Vietnamese student. He/she will probably enjoy "drilling" other class members.

Try to incorporate the Vietnamese numbers and expressions in your day to day dialogue. Encourage your students to do likewise.
Your Vietnamese parents may enjoy making a number chart for displaying the Vietnamese numbers. Suggest that the parent draws Vietnamese objects beside each written number to show "how many" the number stands for.

Your Vietnamese parent may also enjoy explaining any customs that are involved with the included phrases. One example is the handshake custom associated with the phrase "Hello." (See lesson plan dealing with customs.)

The following lists of Vietnamese words are provided so that you can label objects in the classroom, incorporate the Vietnamese language in calendar time, and/or make additional display charts (colors, shapes, etc).

Monday - thu Hai
Tuesday - thu Ba
Wednesday - thu Tu
Thursday - thu Nam
Friday - thu Sau
Saturday - thu Bay

Winter - Mua Dong
Spring - Mua Xuan
Summer - Mua He
Fall - Mua Thu

black - den
brown - mau nau
blue - xanh
green - mau xanh
red - mau do
yellow - mau vang
orange - qua cam
purple - mau do tham

circle - hinh tron
square - hinh vuong
triangle - tam giac
rectangle - hinh chu nhat
star - ngoi sao
oval - hinh trai soan
ball - qua ba-long
bathroom - phong tam
Adaptation cont'd

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Vietnamese</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bicycle</td>
<td>xe đạp</td>
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<td>book</td>
<td>cuốn sách</td>
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<td>boy</td>
<td>con giai</td>
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<td>calendar</td>
<td>cuốn lịch</td>
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<td>cat</td>
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<td>dog</td>
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<td>doll</td>
<td>con búp-be</td>
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<tr>
<td>door</td>
<td>cửa</td>
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<tr>
<td>girl</td>
<td>người con gái</td>
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<tr>
<td>paint</td>
<td>màu sắc</td>
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<td>paper</td>
<td>giấy</td>
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<td>pencil</td>
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<td>cây nhỏ</td>
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<td>máy ướp lạnh</td>
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<td>window</td>
<td>cửa sổ</td>
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</table>
TITLE: Vietnamese Foods

GRADE LEVEL: Preschool - 5th grade

OBJECTIVES: Students will become familiar with the various types of foods eaten by the Vietnamese people.

Students will understand why the Vietnamese eat rice and seafood.

Students will learn what types of crops are grown in Vietnam.

Students will taste authentic Vietnamese food.

MATERIALS: World map or globe.

INTRODUCTION: A. Popular Main Dishes

1. Fried fish in fish sauce dish
2. Boiled shrimp and vegetable dish

B. Why These Dishes Are Popular

Seafood, such as shrimp, crab, fish and octopus is very inexpensive in Vietnam.

C. Menus

1. Lunch or Dinner
   Lunch and dinner are served as equal meals. Rice is always served with lunch and dinner.

   Fish Recipe

   - Wash a large fish.
   - Prepare fish with salt, garlic and green onion.
   - Fry fish with oil until brown.
   - Make fish sauce separately:
     - Pound garlic root and pimento; add a small amount of sugar, lemon and water.
     - Mix well.
2. Breakfast

Breakfast includes bread, fried egg and steamed glutinous rice.

3. Snack

A snack may consist of cookies or green peas sweetened with sugar. Fruits, such as bananas, oranges and mangos may also be eaten as a snack.

D. Person Who Usually Prepares The Food For The Family

The mother generally prepares all meals for the family.

E. Types Of Crops Grown In Vietnam

The major crop grown in Vietnam is rice. Other crops include rye, wheat, sticky rice and corn.

ACTIVITIES:

A. Explain what types of food are eaten by the Vietnamese people. Locate Vietnam on a world map or globe for the class. Have them determine why the Vietnamese eat mainly rice and seafood. Ask students what other crops might grow in Vietnam. Verify their responses.

B. Prepare a typical Vietnamese meal or snack for the students to taste.

PARENT

Your Vietnamese parents may enjoy preparing an authentic Vietnamese meal or snack for the class.

PARTICIPATION:
INTRODUCTION: A. Family Customs

1. When two Vietnamese meet each other, they don't usually shake hands. Instead, they clasp their hands beneath their chins and make a little bow. Although the Western custom of handshaking is catching on, the Vietnamese feel that their own custom is more natural for them.

2. Another Vietnamese custom is the "casting of horoscope" to a newborn child. The newborn is also given a "lucky hour" symbol.

B. Holiday Customs

1. Conservative families send their kitchen god off to make his annual report in heaven on New Year's Eve (TET). This god is worshipped in the form of a paper portrait of the god which is pasted on the kitchen wall. There, he keeps an eye on his human family throughout the year. On New Year's Eve, he goes back to heaven to report on what he has seen. To send him on his way, he is taken off the wall and burned, but not before some sweet paste and wine are spread over his mouth to make sure that he gives a good report about the family. During his absence, evil spirits are everywhere. That is why Vietnamese set off firecrackers around the doorway.

2. During the Mid-Autumn Festival, now called the Children's Festival, large paper dragons dance up and down.

C. Customs Related to Food, Arts and Crafts and Special Games

During the Mid-Autumn Festival, paper lanterns are made in the shapes of rabbits, fish, tigers, etc. Also, a colorful pie is served. Inside the pie are eggs and meats or lily seeds, almonds and spices.
ACTIVITIES: Explain the introductory information to the class. Recruit the help of your Vietnamese parents to demonstrate the Vietnamese handshake. Perhaps you can start this custom in your classroom. Your Vietnamese parent may also be willing to show the class a picture of the kitchen god.

PARENT See activity above. Also, your Vietnamese parent may enjoy participation: baking a Mid-Autumn Festival pie for students to taste.
TITLE: Vietnamese Holidays

GRADE LEVEL: Preschool - 5th grade

OBJECTIVES: Children will become familiar with the Vietnamese customs associated with the Lunar New Year.

MATERIALS: Paper, markers, tape, etc. to make dragon and lion costumes and/or masks.

INTRODUCTION:

A. Origin of the Holiday:

The most important holiday in Vietnam is the Lunar New Year. Since it is based on the lunar calendar, it comes about a month later than the Western New Year.

B. Activities Unique to the Lunar New Year:

1. Houses are cleaned thoroughly. However, no sweeping is done, lest the family's good fortune be swept out the door with the trash.

2. All debts must be paid off so that the New Year can be started with a fresh beginning.

3. There are lively dragon and lion dances in the streets. Everywhere there are the sounds of fire-cracker explosions.

4. Children receive gifts of little red envelopes with money inside.

5. One should be especially careful not to break any dishes, for such an accident is believed to bring about serious problems between members of the family throughout the coming year.

6. At New Year's time, most Vietnamese families paste signs on or around the front door of their homes. These signs are usually red, because red is a happy color which brings good luck.
C. Special Foods or Drinks That Are Served

1. Pork and eggs stewed together.
2. Cake made of sticky rice.
3. Wine may be served.

D. Special Clothing That is Worn

1. On New Year's Day, people dress in their best clothes to visit with friends and relatives.
2. Old men may wear turbans and black dresses.

E. Kind of Music Played

In Vietnam, New Year's Day also marks the beginning of spring. Therefore, most songs congratulate the "god of spring".

F. Length of Holiday

The Vietnamese New Year season traditionally lasts about one month. However, so that working life will not be interrupted for too long, the period has now been reduced to a week or less.

G. Special Religious Activities

In addition to the songs that congratulate the "god of spring" the people pray in the Buddhist temple.

ACTIVITIES:

Consult your Vietnamese parents to determine the exact date for this year's Lunar New Year. On the appropriate day, simulate a Lunar New Year celebration in the classroom.

Several days before the holiday, explain the information presented in the INTRODUCTION. Older children can help decide how to simulate the various customs.

Some examples:

A. To simulate a thorough house cleaning, students can form committees to clean various parts of the classroom.

B. Dragon and lion costumes (or masks) can be made out of paper. Students could dance in classroom aisles or the hallway.

C. Red signs can be made and hung on and around the classroom doorway.
PARENT PARTICIPATION: Your Vietnamese parent may wish to show the class how to make authentic dragon and lion costumes. He/she may be able to display authentic red signs and red envelopes, turbans and the black dress worn.

ADAPTATION: Your class may enjoy performing a skit for other classes, explaining the Vietnamese Lunar New Year.
TITLE: Vietnamese Music

GRADE LEVEL: Preschool - 5th grade

OBJECTIVES: Students will learn what types of music are popular in Vietnam.
Students will learn what instrument is native in Vietnam.

MATERIALS: Recordings of Vietnamese music (optional)
Doc-huyen-cam (optional)

INTRODUCTION: The most popular type of music in Vietnam is soft music. Soft music is either Folk music or Western music.

Elderly people, however, like Cai-luong. This kind of music sounds plaintive or unhappy.

In Vietnam, a special instrument is used that is native to that country. It is called doc-huyen-cam. It has only one string. A rubber bar is attached to the end of the string which allows for varied pitches. The player simply plucks the string.

ACTIVITIES: Explain the introductory material to the class. Ask your Vietnamese parents if they have any recordings of Vietnamese music or a doc-huyen-cam that you can borrow to share with the class.

PARENT PARTICIPATION: See above activity. Parents may wish to demonstrate how to play a doc-huyen-cam or may enjoy teaching the class a Vietnamese song. (See Adaptation.)

ADAPTATION: Folk songs are popular in Vietnam. One such folk song is entitled "Mother's Heart." This song expresses the endless love a mother gives to her children. It states that the mother is the most devoted person to the family. She sacrifices all her heart to her husband and children.

Ask your parents to teach your class an authentic Vietnamese folk song.
Famous People and Their Contributions to Vietnam

GRADE LEVEL: Preschool - 5th Grade

OBJECTIVES: Students will learn about Tran Binh Trong and his contributions to South Vietnam.

Students will learn about Ho Chi Minh and his contributions to North Vietnam.

MATERIALS: Picture of Tran Binh Trong
Picture of Ho Chi Minh

INTRODUCTION: The most famous south Vietnamese is TRAN BINH TRONG. When China tried to establish Vietnam as a colony, TRAN BINH TRONG helped his people fight China, and thus helped maintain the independence and liberty of his people.

During the war, he was caught and imprisoned. The Chinese ruler tried to persuade him to fight against his people, but he said "Sooner death for South than becoming North's King!"

TRAN BINH TRONG thus contributed to his country by helping his people maintain their independence and liberty.

HO CHI MINH was the most famous North Vietnamese and probably the most popular leader. He spent his entire life searching to find a way to better the life of his people. However, he died before he could carry out his plan.

His major contributions included driving out the French and making Vietnam a nation.

ACTIVITIES: Explain the introductory information to the class. Check with your Vietnamese parents to see if they have a picture of Tran Binh Trong or Ho Chi Minh that you can show the class.

ADAPTATION: Give each student a sheet of drawing paper. On one side of the paper the student should illustrate Tran Binh Trong or Ho Chi Minh. On the other side of the paper, the student should illustrate a person who is important to him.
Ask your Vietnamese parents to supply you with a picture of Tran Binh Trong or Ho Chi Minh.
TITLE: Traditional Folklore

GRADE LEVEL: Preschool - 5th grade

OBJECTIVES: Students will be exposed to the linguistic flavor of the Vietnamese culture.

MATERIALS: None Needed

INTRODUCTION: Folk tales have served as vehicles for passing traditional wisdom, customs and values. The following is a popular Vietnamese folktale:

"A Peasant and a Tiger"

One day, while working at his farm, a peasant suddenly saw a tiger coming out of a bush right in front of him. The tiger wanted to fight.

The peasant said he left his intelligence at home, which he needed for fighting. The tiger decided to postpone the fight until the peasant went home to get his intelligence.

The peasant then told the tiger that he was afraid the tiger would flee while he was gone. He asked the tiger to let him bind him to a big tree so the tiger would have to wait for him to get back.

As soon as the tiger was bound to the tree, the peasant turned about, found himself a big hard stick and whipped the tiger to death.

MORAL: Mental strength is stronger than the strength of the body alone.

ACTIVITY: Seat children informally. Briefly explain the purpose of a folktale.

Either read or tell "A Peasant and a Tiger". Be sure to use vocal and facial expression.

Discuss the moral.
The Vietnamese parent may enjoy sharing a favorite folk tale with the children.

Students may wish to illustrate this folk tale.
RESOURCE LIST
Claudia's Caravan
P.O. Box 5582
BERKELEY, CA 94705
(415) 843-2030

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Resource book covering five major ethnic groups. (Native American, African, Asian, Mexican, European). Contains library research activities, language games, recipes, art projects, bulletin board ideas. (Ages 7-14)

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An activity approach to exploring cultures. Book is divided into units on Brazil, France, Iran, Japan, Nigeria, and the U.S.S.R. (Ages 6-12)

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Twenty-three occupations are depicted in boy and girl finger puppets that can be colored and cut out. (Ages 2-10)

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A resource book containing 258 games from countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. (All ages)

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Each book in this series includes crafts, games, recipes, and a
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Comprehensive resource book on methods and materials for the elementary classroom. Topics include self-image, parent involvement, location of resources and much more. (ages 4-12)

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"Hands on" activities are depicted in this book. Activities are drawn from Black history in America and Africa, and are organized into the content areas of reading, math, social studies, and art. (ages 4-12)

INGUAL BOOKS

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Korean/English text about a Korean child's adjustment to her American surroundings. Full color paperback. (ages 5-12)

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Hawaiian/English text describing a luau. Giant sized coloring book. Pronunciation key. (ages 3-10)

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Vietnamese/English text about a Vietnamese child's adjustment to her American surroundings, and how she finds a way to help her native country. Paperback. (ages 5-10)

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Storybook in Chinese and English with full-color illustrations. Concerns a little boy's imaginary trip to Hong Kong. (Ages 2-12)

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Same story as above, in Japanese and English.

(8B) PICTURES THAT TEACH WORDS $7.95
Twenty duplicating masters that illustrate everyday objects. Instructions include names of these objects in 7 languages: English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Japanese (phonetic) and Vietnamese. (all ages)

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More duplicating masters depicting hundreds of words for daily living. Activity scenes ideal for drilling tenses. Also in 7 languages. (Listed above)

(10B) IT LOOKS LIKE THIS/ESTA COCA SE VE ASI $4.50
Allegorical tale in Spanish and English about 4 mice who see the
world through 4 narrow viewpoints. Paperback. Excellent for all ages.

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Large illustrated vocabularies in each of these hardcover books. Excellent for beginners and intermediate students. Includes word list and pronunciation guide. Full color (all ages)

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A collection of jokes and riddles from around the world. Many of the jokes appear in bilingual form. Excellent resource book. Hardcover (all ages)

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Playing card deck with 52 portraits of famous Black Americans. Booklet of biographies included. May also be used as flash cards. (ages 4-adult)

(2D) NATURE GAME/EL JUEGO DE LA NATURALEZA $2.50

Card game in Spanish illustrates animals from around the world. (ages 4-adult)

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Card game in Spanish illustrates 19 animal families. (all ages)

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Lottery game in Spanish illustrates 54 traditional Mexican crafts. Includes 6 playing cards. Full color. (all ages)

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