

Great Classroom Idea



Grade level: 7-8

Subject (if applicable): Bible

Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lesson plan | <input type="checkbox"/> project-based teaching/activity idea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> technology integration idea | <input type="checkbox"/> graphic organizer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> integration of faith and learning idea | <input type="checkbox"/> webquest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> classroom management technique | <input type="checkbox"/> virtual field trip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> devotional | <input type="checkbox"/> bulletin board idea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> science demo or experiment | <input type="checkbox"/> critical thinking strategy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> assessment tool | <input type="checkbox"/> original classroom game |
| <input type="checkbox"/> relationship-building idea | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |

Description: (attach supplementary materials if needed)

Note: This lesson can be adapted to any K-8.

Background: My grade 7-8 Bible class was discussing the history of the Bible - the inspiration, the writing, and the preservation of the scriptures. Since the class is 40 minutes long which is eaten up by general school announcements in the beginning of the day, I count on 30-35 teaching minutes. So all the prep work of going over the history, inspiration, and such was covered in a prior lesson and on this day I just did a short review.

Objective: 1) describe the process for making paper/scrolls. 2) develop appreciation for the preservation and writing of the scrolls (Bible).

WARNING: VERY MESSY ACTIVITY but the kids love it. 10 out of 12 had good things to say, other 2 didn't like the looks and feel (boys too).

1. Review -

History Sketch:

- + Egyptians used hieroglyphics and developed writing on papyrus scrolls
- + Many different cultures used cuneiforms - writing on clay tablets
- + Papyrus scrolls are made similar to paper - harvest the cane, soak and beat the fibers until pulp, and use sieves to arrange and dry the fibers. Paper as we know it goes through chemical processes to get the desired color
- + use of hide
- + scribes copied scriptures word for word from older documents. Throw away any with known glitches even if minute (appreciate the hard work!). Custom of scribes in BC and through the Middle Ages, by then they were using paper and quill/ink
- + printing press in 1430s by Gutenberg helped to get Bible in laity hands and MUCH FASTER
- + today's many translations and use of paper and digital forms

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Submitted by: Shirleen Luttrell

School: Sandy Lake Academy

2. Introduce and Demonstrate how to make paper

3. Have kids make their own paper

You might want to google for instructions. But here is what I did:

Gather a stack of paper from the recycle bin. Shred them up into small pieces of paper. Handy if you have a shredder;) Soak the paper in water and puree with a blender as much as possible. Get a big rectangular bin and dump the puree into. The paper fibers and water should form into a thin milkshake substance. Might gross some kids!

Create a sieve. I used nylon from old pantyhose - don't! It'll stretch. You want the sieve to be flat. You want to scoop as much fibers as possible and have it dispersed as much as possible, so dip the sieve at a sharp angle and flatten out at the bottom of pan. Raise sieve straight up so that the fibers are evenly scattered.

Let the excess water drained off. You may have to sponge some of the water off), place a towel over the fibers and turn the sieve over and place on safe place to dry. Depending on the thickness, it may take a day or two for the fibers to dry. I was able to peel away the towel easily afterward.

4. Discuss the work involved in making and reproducing the scrolls, having done it themselves

5. At the end of the week, I had my students write their memory verse on their individual scrolls. (Luckily it was a short memory verse! Because I hadn't thought about that!)

It's a very basic lesson and didn't think much of it, but the students brought it to mind several times over the course of the year. I liked it because it was a good interdisciplinary lesson - Bible, science and history.