Calendar Creations

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PROGRAM OUTLINE

Calendar Creations is a hands-on visual program that helps students achieve performance standards in Literature and Math. The program consists of three stages. First, the students read books from the K-2 New York State English Standards. They select twelve of the stories they have read to be represented in the calendar. Working in pairs the students create artwork based on these stories. In the third stage of the program, the students learn how to generate calendar pages on a computer.

TARGET STUDENTS

This program is designed for use in a first grade ESL class, but it can be adapted for all types of students in levels K-2. Students in grades 3-5 can also participate in the program. These students would create calendar artwork based on books in the New York State English Standards for Levels 3-5.

TIMELINES

Calendar Creations can begin as soon as the students have read twenty to thirty books from the New York State Standards. The class that was originally involved in this program began the project in January. It should take approximately three weeks to complete, utilizing one period a day. The lamination and binding of the calendar, done by the teacher, should take about another four to six hours.

TYPES OF ASSESSMENTS USED

In creating the art pages for the calendar, the students will be assessed through speaking and writing/drawing. They will discuss, with the teacher, what elements of the story they wish to include in their art page, and why they think those elements are important. After creating the art page, the students can discuss the work with the teacher and determine if they have included those elements of the story they considered important.

The computer aspect of the program is assessed by having students create calendar pages, and by articulating the steps they need to perform in order to create a calendar page. Finally, a hands-computer assessment can be used.

LESSON PLANS

The lesson plans address curriculum areas of counting, ordinal and cardinal numbers, and concepts such as: before/after, first/last, more/less, and greater/fewer. The lesson plans introduce the elements of a calendar, including the names of the months of the year, the number of days in each month, and the names of the days of the week. The computer lesson plan details a step-by-step procedure in order to create a calendar page, using the program Print Shop Deluxe.

TIME REQUIRED

The students will need time to read twenty to thirty books from the New York State English Standards. This will take approximately four to six weeks. Working in pairs, the students will confer with the teacher about which book they wish to illustrate for their calendar art page. The teacher will review the characters and the plot with them to help students focus on the important elements. These student/teacher conferences will take approximately fifteen to twenty minutes. Two periods will be required for the lessons introducing the months of the year and the days of the week. Two to four periods will be required to introduce the computer calendar lesson.

ADVANCE PREPARATION

The reading of twenty to thirty books from the New York State English Standards in necessary for this project, so the teacher must obtain these books from the classroom library, the school library, or from colleagues. The books *Chicken Soup With Rice* by Maurice Sendak and *Today is Monday* by Eric Carle are necessary for the calendar lessons. Small calendar books for students to color, cut, and assemble should be obtained from teacher resource guides.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- ✍ Books from the New York State English Standards K-2
- ✍ White drawing paper, colored construction paper
- ✍ Pencils including colored pencils
- ✍ Markers
- ✍ Tempura paints and brushes
- ✍ Glue
- ✍ Computer program: Print Shop Deluxe
- ✍ Laminating machine and laminating pouches
- ✍ Binding machine

VOCABULARY

The vocabulary used in the project includes:

calendar	first/last	yesterday
months	before/after	today
days	more/less	tomorrow
weeks	greater/fewer	next

COMPUTER VOCABULARY

computer	monitor	screen	mouse
keyboard	printer	click	double click
drag	point	press	pull
select	choose	font	text block
size	graphic	icon	scroll
menu bar			

PROCEDURES

Students will be paired up to work on the calendar art pages. They will discuss which book they wish to represent on their art page and the elements they think should be included. They can create a pencil sketch, which can then be reviewed by their teacher. Their peers can also review the sketch during sharing time. The students can then create the calendar art page using washable markers, colored pencils, or tempura paints.

Students can learn how to print a calendar page using the computer program Print Shop Deluxe. The number of computers that are available in the classroom will determine how many students can be instructed in this lesson at one time.

ACTIVITIES

The book *Chicken Soup With Rice* will be read to introduce the months of the year, and the book *Today is Monday* will introduce the days of the week. Small calendar books for children to color, cut, and assemble can be taken home and read for homework, or put into reading baskets.

EXTENSION OR FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

To reinforce the lessons, the teacher can create a number of center activities. The names of the months can be printed out or cut from an old calendar and laminated. Peel-off magnets can be attached to the back and the students can practice reading the names of the months and putting them in sequence on a magnetic board. The same thing can be done for the days of the week.

HOMEWORK

The initial sketches of the calendar art pages can be assigned as homework. The students can illustrate or write about what they do on different days of the week. They can illustrate or write about the month in which their birthday occurs.

EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT

The teacher can evaluate/assess the students by casually questioning them about what day it is, or what day yesterday was, or what day it will be tomorrow. The classroom calendar can be used year long to evaluate and assess student achievement.

RESOURCE LIST

A teacher knowledgeable in the computer program Print Shop Deluxe is necessary for this program. Access to the New York State English Standards K-2 is also necessary. Discarded magazines that depict the months of the year and appropriate scenes for each month (i.e., weather, holidays) are excellent resources to familiarize students with the months of the year. Computers with Print Shop Deluxe are necessary. A tape of the song "Thirty Days Has September" is helpful. A tape can be made of the stories *Chicken Soup With Rice* and *Today is Monday*. Both of these books are necessary for the program. All other materials used in the program can be obtained at any teacher supply store or art supply store.

LESSON PLAN TO LEARN THE MONTHS OF THE YEAR

Curriculum Area: Math

Lesson Title: January to December

Aim: To learn the months of the year by name and their sequence.

Linguistic Aim: Learn ordinal numbers by name and their sequence.

Materials: Big book *Chicken Soup With Rice* by Maurice Sendak

Motivation: The teacher shows the class a twelve-month calendar. He/she will ask the students if they know the purpose of the calendar. Then the teacher explains that the students are going to learn the months of the year and how they are arranged on a calendar.

Activity: The teacher reads the big book. The students repeat the name of each month and examine the pictures that accompany the months. The following questions can be asked:

1. Why does each month begin with a capital letter?
2. How many months are in the year?
3. What months of the year end with rhyming sounds?
4. Does each month have the same number of days?
5. What is the greatest number of days a month can have?
   What is the least number?
6. Which month has the fewest days?
7. What months have 30 days? Which have 31 days?
8. How is February different from all other months?
9. In which month were you born?

Follow-Up

Students can create a small book of the months of the year using the sample worksheets attached. The teacher can print the months of the year in one-inch type on the computer. (Six months will fit on one page.) The pages can be laminated and cut into strips with a paper cutter. Peel-off magnets can be attached to the strips to create a center activity.

LESSON PLAN TO LEARN THE DAYS OF THE WEEK

Curriculum Area: Math

Lesson Title: Seven Days A Week

Aim: To learn the days of the week and their sequence.

Linguistic Aim: To learn the following vocabulary:

today	yesterday	tomorrow
before	after	first
last	next	when

Materials: Big book *Today is Monday* by Eric Carle

Motivation: The teacher will ask the students if they come to school every day. What days do they not come to school? What days do they come to school?

Activity: The teacher reads the book. The students repeat the name of each day. When the story is finished, the students recall the names of the days and they are written on a chart in proper sequence. The following questions can be asked:

1. Why does each day begin with a capital letter?
2. What small word (day) can be found in each day of the week?
3. What days begin with the letter "S"?
4. Are there any other days that begin with the same letter?

5. Why is the beginning sound of Thursday different from the beginning sound of Tuesday?

6. How many days are in a week?

7. How is each day of the school week different?

8. What is your favorite day of the week? Why?

Follow-Up

The students can create a four-page book selecting four different days of the week. They can write and draw about their activities on those days. The teacher can print out the days of the week in one-inch type on the computer. The page can be laminated and cut into strips on a paper cutter. The strips can be magnetized with stick-on magnets to create a learning center.

Lesson Plan for Calendar Project

Curriculum Area: Computer Skills

Lesson Title: Computer Calendar Creations

Aim: To create calendars for each month of the year, using the computer program Print Shop Deluxe.

Linguistic Aim: To utilize computer-related vocabulary when creating calendars. To use present-tense verb forms when using the computer and software.

Target Vocabulary:

computer	monitor	screen	mouse
keyboard	printer	click	double click
drag	point	press	pull
select	choose	text block	font
size	graphic	icon	scroll
menu bar			

Materials: computer, program Print Shop Deluxe, printer, and paper

Motivation: The teacher will show the class a 12-month calendar. He/she will review the different components found in the calendar, i.e., month, dates, year, and holidays. Then the teacher will explain that each student will be creating his/her own computer-generated calendar for each month.

Procedure:

1. The students will turn on the computer and be instructed to double click on the Print Shop Deluxe icon. Then they will double click where it says "The Print Shop Deluxe".

2. They will see a screen with various choices, i.e., Greeting Card Sign, etc. and should click once on “Calendar”.

3. Next they will see a screen that asks them to "Select a Calendar Type..." They should choose “Monthly” by clicking on it.

4. The next screen will say, "Choose a Calendar Orientation”. They should choose “Wide” by clicking on it. (Wide is a better option for this project because of the size of the boxes.)

5. Then, they will see a screen that is labeled "Calendar Month." On this screen, they will make two selections. First is the year that can be changed by typing in another year or by clicking on the up and down arrows. After choosing a year, they should click on the month they want and click “OK”.

6. Now, they can move on to what they want their calendar page to look like. First they will be asked to choose a landscape background. Since any background other than “Blank Page” will make the actual calendar smaller, they should opt for “Blank Page” and then click OK.

7. The next step is Landscape Layout, of which there are nine. The students can click on the different choices to see what they are, but they should opt for "Calendar 1" (This choice provides them with the biggest-sized boxes for their calendars).

8. On the actual calendar workspace, they should double click on the thin gray rectangle on top. This includes a horizontal ruled line. They should scroll down for their options. If they don't see anything they want, they can click on “Change Library”. Then they should click on “Libraries” and click “Open”. Here they can choose from other lines and do the same as before until they find one they like. Should they not find any to include, they can click on that area. They will see four small black squares on each corner of that area. Then they can press the delete key to remove the line option.

9. The students can create their Text Block, which they choose from tools on the left (third box on top line) or from “Object” on the menu bar. Once they have the block area, they double click on it and move the arrow up to “Text” on the menu bar and choose "Text Settings.” Here they set the size from 10 to 12, choose the font (lettering) and style they want and click OK. Then they type the text and go to the tools and click on the arrow.

10. Then they will see the four small black squares on the corners of the area. They should click and pull one of them in to make the text block smaller. Once it is the correct size, they should press down on the mouse and drag the text block to where they want it.

11. The last step is to include a Square Graphic (picture). They should go to the tools and menu bar (as in Procedure 9) and choose “Square Graphic”. Then they do the same as they did in Procedure 8 and choose the graphic they want. When they find one they like, they should make the graphic fit in the box by pulling in the four small black squares and then dragging the graphic to where they want it. If it still doesn't fit, they should continue pulling in the graphic until it does.

12. Once the students have their calendar the way they want it, all they have left to do is to print it out. This is done by moving the arrow up to “File” on the menu bar where they scroll down to “Print” and let go. They will see a screen referring to the printer and should click “Print” (or OK). When their calendar finishes printing, they should check to make sure it looks right. Of course, they can change it until it is just right.

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DOWN BY THE BAY

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

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RAINBOW FISH (M. PFISTER)

STELLALUNA (J. CANNON)

THE GINGERBREAD MAN

THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD (W. PIPER)

THE LITTLE RED HEN

THE MITTEN (J. BRETT)

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

CHICKEN SOUP WITH RICE (M. SENDAK)

TODAY IS MONDAY (E. CARLE)

Calendar Creations

Class 1-308
P.S. 217

Rainbow Fish

January 2001

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Madeline

February 2001

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Gingerbread Man

March 2001

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Stellaluna

April 2001

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Jack and the Beanstalk

May 2001

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

Down by the Bay

June 2001

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

The Three Little Pigs

July 2001

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

The Little Red Hen

August 2001

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 A Day at the Beach	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Corduroy

September 2001

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 First Day of Autumn
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Caps For Sale

October 2001

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

The Little Engine That Could

November 2001

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

The Mitten

December 2001

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 First Day of Winter	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					