

Title: Codices

Grade: Kindergarten and/or Elementary FLES/Spanish

—by Kristen Cardona & Lisa Galeano

Main Objective: Children will work together in a group to come up with their own stories in a folding book focusing on a beginning middle and end.

Students Learn: That codices are the folding books used by the Mixtecs, Aztecs and Zapotecs of Ancient Mexico. Students make cultural connections regarding how symbols are used in all cultures by people that speak all languages.

Essential Questions:

- What is a symbol?
- What symbols do you know?
- How are symbols formed?
- How is language formed using symbols?

Students Learn:

- That codices are the folding books used by the Aztecs, Mixtecs, and Zapotec peoples of ancient Mexico
- How to interpret ancient Mesoamerican drawing styles.
- How to work in a group to create a book showing drawings and personal narratives.

Activities:

Show images of symbols we see in school. Fire extinguisher, Exit sign, bathroom sign, up and down signs etc. Then take a tour of the school having children pay attention to what symbols there are in our school building. Come back to classroom and share out. The next day talk about symbols we see in the neighborhood. Lets brainstorm: Stop sign. Walk and Don't walk sign. Next day take a walk around the neighborhood and look for signs or symbols.

Technology: Show symbols and signs on the Elmo.

Demonstrate:

Place an 18" x 12" piece of brown craft paper horizontally on the table. Fold to lengthwise top edge down to about 4" from the bottom lengthwise edge. Crease the top fold firmly. Fold up the bottom lengthwise edge so that the fold overlaps at the bottom edge of the folded top portion. There will be a 4" high "hem" pocket running along the bottom of the book. Fold the book in half, open and bring each end of the book to the center. Crease the two end folds so that the fold is distinct. Open the book and fold the book in half at the center so you create an accordion or zigzag fold with the pocket hem on the inside of the book. Open flat and glue with a glue stick or white glue at the open ends of the book and the folds of the pocket. This will create smaller sections of pocket which can hold cut out figures

On the pocket write narrative. Draw figures and images of your story inside the book. Add small paper cut outs- these should be created on 4" x 6" color paper with color pencils, crayons or *craypas*.

Students will work individually or in groups at their table to collaborate on the codex drawings.

Materials:

Brown craft paper 18" x12"

Color pencils

Glue sticks

Scissors

4" x 6" pieces of a variety of colored construction paper pieces

Visuals

Vocabulary:

Line, border, codex, codices, symbol, sign, horizontal, fold, accordion/zigzag, Mexico
Aztecs, Mixtecs, and Zapotecs

Final Project:

Create class name and symbol. Write a story using the class name and symbol. The end goal would be to translate these stories into Spanish, English and Nahuatl

Stories: Using 4 different languages:: Codices
Spanish English Nahuatl Images/Picture

Bibliography—Codices

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