

Standard Four – Lesson One

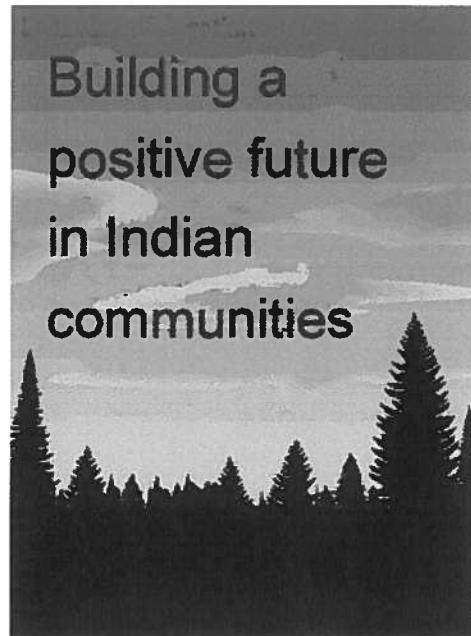
Achievement Goal:
Build a pictorial chart of the leaders in school, family, and community and discuss how those people help and lead others.

Time:
One class period

Core:
Civics/Government



For Grades 2-3



Background:

Indian cultures are often characterized by extended family relationships, in which many people are considered one's relatives. This large network of relatives provides support, security and role models to look up to. Community leadership is seen in those who seek to contribute to the well-being of their people and those who actively protect public goods such as the land. Leaders are involved in a life-long search for knowledge, spiritual balance and development of strong characteristics and skills needed in one's community. By designing and building a quilt, the students will come to understand the qualities of family and community leaders and how they fit together to build a secure community.

Materials:

- Three colors of construction paper (or white muslin if you wish to sew the quilt together)
- Permanent markers (or fabric pens if you are working with muslin)

Preparation:

- Cut the construction paper or muslin into squares for a quilt. Consider the pattern and colors to be used. If you are using muslin, you may consider dyeing three different colors.

Student Activity:

- Read the story "Crazy Horse's Vision" from the book listed in the resource section to the students.
- Using the book as an example, discuss leadership with the students. Have them name leaders they are aware of. Encourage them to name leaders in their families and community. At younger ages, the teacher may need to help by suggesting leaders, and talk about what makes them leaders. An example would be the school principle, a doctor, tribal council member, grandmother, coach or teacher.

- Explain how a community requires many different types of leaders in order to make it a good place to live.
 - Have the students think about and choose one leader they admire. The leader can be from:
 - Their family
 - Their community
 - The school
 - Give each student a different colored quilt square. Distribute one color for those who have family leaders, another color for community leaders and the third color for school leaders.
 - Have the students illustrate something about their chosen leader. It may be a portrait, or showing something that has been accomplished by their leader.
 - Glue or stitch the quilt squares together into an attractive quilt. When ready, again discuss leadership with the students. Using the quilt as an example, show them how many leaders are required within a community. They work together and their skills and contributions fit together to provide community security and support, much like a quilt provides security and warmth for a person.
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Evaluation:

- Listen as the students talk about their leaders. See how many students can name a leader. Determine if they understand what qualities a leader should have.
 - When the quilt is complete, again ask the students about their leaders to see if they have a broader understanding than when the leadership lesson first began.
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Resources:

Bruchac. Joseph. Crazy Horse's Vision. New York: Lee and Low Books, 2000.