

LESSON THREE

FIRE



Objective/Goal:

To relate to the children the importance of respecting fire and create awareness of the many roles of fire both in everyday and ceremonial life. Children will be able to understand the importance of respecting fire and have an increased awareness of the qualities of fire – its resemblance to living things, its creation of light, and its relationship to the sun. Children will also understand concepts of fire safety.

Setting the stage for learning

Invite children to circle time with the sounds of soft music. As children are sitting in a circle discuss the importance of fire to the world and provide children with the question of what it would be like if we did not have any fire. Begin to read the story about how people got fire. Think of ways to extend learning into classroom areas by adding materials such as: housekeeping area complete with play stove and fireplace, dress up fireman clothing, books about fire safety, supervised cooking experiences.

Storytelling

Invite an elder or spiritual leader to explain the importance of fire in ceremonies. A fire story from the Cherokee will be used as an example for this lesson. Source: James Mooney, Myths of the Cherokee from the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology 1897-98, Part I. [1900] (Public Domain) <http://www.sacred-texts.com/nam/cher/motc/motc002.htm>