

Unit 2 Overview

Xinachtli: Sprouts of Ancestral Wisdom



Lesson 1 Mapping Identity Through Poetry	Students explore the concept of personal identity. They begin with creating an Identity Map and discuss findings in small groups. Next, students study spoken word poetry's history and analyze Elizabeth Acevedo's "Afro-Latina". Following that, they compose their own identity-focused poem. Finally, students watch a video clip of T'Challa's visit to the ancestral plane in Black Panther to connect the unit title, "Xinachtli: Sprouts of Ancestral Wisdom," to Acevedo's poem and its deeper message.
Lesson 2 Pillars of Culture	Students will explore the concept of culture. First, students will define culture based on their own thoughts and experiences. Then, students will learn about the dominant culture of the 1950s in the United States and discuss counterculture movements of the 1960s-70s, including hip hop as a significant counterculture. Next, students will work in teams to research the five pillars of hip hop culture and discuss what defines hip hop as a culture. Finally, students will identify a culture you belong to and reflect on how cultural diversity contributes to a deeper sense of community consciousness.
Lesson 3 Art as a Pathway to Consciousness	Students will critically examine the concept of race by analyzing evidence from the U.S. government and watching a short video. Then, students will explore the origins of the term anti-racism through a quote by Angela Davis and an interview with Ibram Kendi. Next, students will consider how art can be a form of anti-racism and begin creating an art piece that explores and celebrates identity, builds consciousness of racial bias, and fosters individual and collective healing.
Lesson 4 Beyond the Binary	Students watch a short video to define important vocabulary related to gender and sexuality. Then, students will learn about gender diverse cultures around the world and become an expert on one gender-diverse culture. Next, students will learn about the rise in anti-trans politics and discuss the consequences on their local community. Finally, students will take inspiration from artists and fashion designers to conceptualize how they might use the human body to advocate for gender equity and celebrate the complexities of gender expression.
Lesson 5 Rooted in Unity	Students will apply the concept of intersectionality to their own identity and community. Then, students will return to the poem "Afro-Latina" by Elizabeth Acevedo and consider it through the lens of intersectionality. Next, students will create a piece that celebrates the complexities of identity, inspired by one of their concepts or drafts from earlier in the unit. Finally, students will write an artist's statement to accompany their final project and share their work in a class exhibition.