

LESSON PLAN

Expressions of Faith

Grades 9-12

Objectives:

Students will:

- describe an orixá and what it is associated with
- explain two main ideas in the African Brazilian religion, Candomblé
- define and understand the connection between Catholic saints and orixás.

Curriculum Standards and Learning Outcomes:

7-W3.2.3 Identify and describe the way that religion unified peoples' perception of the world and contributed to cultural integration.

Materials:

Student Information Sheet: Candomblé and the Roman Catholic Church

Student Information Sheet: The Orixás of Candomblé (Chart)

Student Information Sheet: Orixás Pen and Ink Drawings

Student Information Sheet: Caboclos (Indigenous Brazilians)

Student Information Sheet: Ferramentas

Pen and paper

Words to Know:

Candomblé - (pronounced Kahn-dom-BLAY) An African Brazilian religion

deity - a god or goddess

Orixá - (pronounced oh-ree- SHA) a deity in Candomblé associated with the forces of nature

Olodumaré - (pronounced Oh-lo-DO-mar -RAY) the one, all powerful God

Introduction:

Have students look at the Student Information Sheet: Orixás of Candomblé (Chart); have them read the name of each orixá and the power associated

with each one. Tell them that these orixás are deities or gods who symbolize the forces of nature and honored ancestors in the African Brazilian religion of Candomblé (Kahn-dom-BLAY). These orixás can communicate with the one, all powerful God called Olodumaré (pronounced o- la-DO-mar-ray).

Activity 1:

Ask them to orally read the Student Information Sheet: Candomblé and Roman Catholicism.

- Instruct students to write four questions and answers from the information presented on the sheet.
- They will get into pairs and ask each other the questions. Each pair will choose one question to ask the class.

Activity 2:

Prepare a three minute talk:

Using the Student Information Sheet: Orixás of Candomblé (Chart), select two orixás and identify the Catholic counterpart/saint connected with each orixá. Use the internet to find more information about the orixás and prepare a three minute talk on your orixás. Take notes and include what they are associated with and the saint connected with each.

or

Write a paragraph:

Choose an orixá from the Student Information Sheet on Orixás of Candomblé (Chart), and look at the Student Information Sheet: Pen and Ink Drawings of the Orixás. Write a paragraph stating why you selected this orixá, what it is associated with, its symbol, its color, its special day, and the saint that represents it in the Catholic church.

Assessment/Reflection:

- Explain how Africans maintained their sense of identity by associating the Catholic saints with the orixás.
- Why were mutual aid societies valuable in Brazil and the U.S.?

Extended Activities:

Read Student Information Sheet: Ferramentas. Discuss.

- Read the Student Information Sheet: Caboclos - The Spirits of Indigenous Brazilians.
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- Research The Church of Our Lady of the Rosary of the Black People (Igreja da Nossa Senhora do Rosario dos Pretos) in Salvador. Find out when and how it was built, and the length of time to build it.
- Compare and contrast the Irmandades (ear-mahn-DAH-jees), sisterhoods and brotherhoods of the Catholic church, with the mutual benefit societies of free African Americans in the U.S. Both began during colonial times. Take notes and discuss.