

La Paz

Level: Beginning to Intermediate

Functions: Count, compare and contrast, describe

Content: Life skills (virtues), art, science, Spanish

Vocabulary: Greetings, numbers, colors, animals

Grammar: Agreement, gender

Context: Make a book

Culture: Human relationships/behaviors, animals

Project: Each student will create a 7-page peace book.

Day 1: Introduce and practice greetings

¡Hola! Me llamo_____. ¿Cómo te llamas?

Me llamo_____.

Talk about what peace means and what kind of places are peaceful. Each student will paint a self-portrait with a peaceful setting. This is the first page of the book. Practice the number one – uno.

Day 2: Buenos días, león.

Me llamo_____.

Use a lion puppet, stuffed animal, figurine or picture. Practice greetings, roars, and role- plays. Discuss the lion's color, size, and habitat.

El león es amarillo.

El león es grande.

El león vive en la jungla.

The lion represents reason and courage. Talk about a lion's actions, how he stays very still, carefully watching everything. Then, all of a sudden, he takes off after his prey, not losing sight of his goal. The lion teaches us to think carefully before making a decision, and then to stick with it to accomplish the desired result. The brave lion defends his territory and protects his cubs. He only attacks when he is hungry, and for protection.

El león representa razón y valor. Each student will paint a lion in a peaceful jungle setting. This is the second page of the book. Practice the number two – dos.

Day 3: Buenos días, vaca.

Me llamo_____.

Use a cow puppet, stuffed animal, figurine or picture. Practice greetings, moo (muu), and role-plays. Discuss the cow's color, size, and habitat.

La vaca es negra y blanca.

La vaca es grande.

La vaca vive en el rancho.

Have the students say what the cow gives us (leche, carne, crema, helado, queso). Imagine a cow peacefully chewing her food and moving her tail to shoo the flies away. The cow represents patience and tolerance. People who complain, criticize and judge others are not being patient or tolerant.

La vaca representa paciencia y tolerancia. Each student will paint a cow in a peaceful ranch setting. This is the third page of the book. Practice the number three – tres.

Day 4: Buenos días, zorra.

Me llamo_____.

Use a fox puppet, stuffed animal, figurine or picture. Practice greetings and role-plays. Discuss the fox's color, size, and habitat.

La zorra es roja.

La zorra es mediana.

La zorra vive en el cerro.

The fox represents wisdom. She knows how to stay out of trouble, when to take action and when not to. If she senses danger, she carefully goes away. She is active and cautious, and knows how to be quiet. Like the fox, we must develop our wisdom, and listen very closely to our inner voice. The fox also inspires us to look for the good side in a person or situation, and to see the good in ourselves.

La zorra representa sabiduría. Each student will paint a fox in a peaceful hill setting. This is the fourth page of the book. Practice the number four – cuatro.

Day 5: Buenos días, cordero.

Me llamo_____.

Use a lamb puppet, stuffed animal, figurine or picture. Practice greetings, baaa (bee), and role-plays. Discuss the lamb's color, size, and habitat.

El cordero es blanco.

El cordero es mediano.

El cordero vive en la montaña.

The lamb gives away everything he has – his wool and his meat. The lamb teaches us to be good, and to know the difference between right and wrong. He

represents kindness. We need to be kind to ourselves and others, to animals and nature. Discuss our interconnectedness, and how one person's actions affect all of us.

El cordero representa bondad. Each student will paint a lamb in a peaceful mountain setting. This is the fifth page of the book. Practice the number five – cinco.

Day 6: Buenos días, oso.

Me llamo_____.

Use a bear puppet, stuffed animal, figurine or picture. Practice greetings, grrr, and role-plays. Discuss the bear's color, size, and habitat.

El oso es marrón.

El oso es grande.

El oso vive en el bosque.

The bear is strong and self-sufficient. Think of the bear to give you the power of thinking "I can" no matter how hard it seems. Discuss how the bear doesn't depend on anyone for his needs. Share examples of self-sufficiency, like being able to tie your own shoes, brush your teeth without being told, and trying to do your homework by yourself.

El oso representa fuerza y autosuficiencia. Each student will paint a bear in a peaceful forest setting. This is the sixth page of the book. Practice the number six – seis.

Day 7: Buenos días llama.

Me llamo_____.

Use a llama puppet, stuffed animal, figurine or picture. Practice greetings and role-plays. Discuss the llama's color, size, and habitat.

La llama es blanca.

La llama es alta.

La llama vive en las montañas.

Humans use the llamas' soft hide to make clothing. Its tallow is used to make candles. They are excellent mountain climbers. The llama represents persistence and love. "Love moves mountains" and can transform anything into something beautiful. When we share and help others we are loving. When we hug someone who is hurt, we are loving. Loving ourselves is very important. It means taking care of ourselves, eating healthy foods, going to bed early, and fulfilling our responsibilities. Like the llama, we should sustain love all the time. Do something every day to make someone happy.

La llama representa amor y persistencia. Each student will paint a llama in a peaceful mountain setting. This is the seventh page of the book. Practice the number seven – siete.

Day 8: Make a peaceful painting on a cover page. Write La Paz for the title and print the author's name. Each page of the book should be labeled with the animal's name. More information can be added from what was practiced and discussed, depending on the students' level.

Day 9: Assemble the book and practice reading it in pairs or small groups. Review vocabulary and concepts taught.

Day 10: Have students ‘publish’ their books by sharing them with other classes and parent visitors.

Additional learning activities: Students can review numbers, colors, and animals with picture card games, math manipulatives, and clay.

Extension activities: Learn about animals commonly represented in ancient Mexican civilizations and what they symbolized – jaguar, eagle, snake, alligator, feathered serpent, etc.

Before painting, share paintings of some Mexican artists (Frida, Diego, etc.). Discuss color, style, and technique. Look for any peaceful elements in the paintings.

Compare different geographical regions in Mexico, compare to your hometown environment, and to different animal habitats painted in the book project.

Evaluation/Assessment: Student evaluation will be based on oral participation and performance during vocabulary practice and role-plays. Completion of the book project plus reading, retelling, and sharing it, will be an important part of the assessment also.