

DAY AND NIGHT SKIES

TOTAL TIME: 45 Minutes

Instead of breaking into groups, this lesson will work best as a whole class.

ACTIVITY 1: DAY & NIGHT ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 2: READ A STORY

ACTIVITY 3: EARTH PLAY

ACTIVITY 4: USING THE GLOBE

ACTIVITY 5: DRAWING DAY & NIGHT PICTURES

MATERIALS

Activity 1: Day & Night Activities

- Laminated black construction paper.
- Laminated yellow construction paper.
- 32 laminated clip-art day & night activity cards.

Activity 2: Read a Story

- Book: The Sun is Always Shining Somewhere.

Activity 3: Earth Play

- 1 flashlight.
- 1 earth necklace.
- 1 sun necklace.
- 1 moon necklace.
- 2 cloud necklaces.
- 2 raindrop necklaces.

Activity 4: Using the Globe

1. 1 flashlight
2. 1 globe (supplied by teacher)

Activity 5: Drawing Day & Night Pictures

1. Blank paper (supplied by teacher).
2. Crayons (supplied by teacher).

Activity 1: Day & Night Activities

Materials:

- Laminated black construction paper
- Laminated yellow construction paper
- 32 laminated clip-art day & night activity cards.

Activity:

1. Ask all of the children to sit down on the rug in a circle.
2. *Today we're going to talk about day & night. Some of the questions we're going to investigate are:*
 - a. *How do we know if it's day or night?*
 - b. *How are day and night different?*
 - c. *What activities do we do in the day?*
 - d. *What activities do we do in the night?*
 - e. *Where does the sun go at night? Does it go to sleep?*
 - f. *Is the sun always shining somewhere?*
3. *First we're going to talk about the kinds of activities that we do in the day and in the night.*
4. Place the laminated black construction paper ("night") and the laminated yellow construction ("day") paper in the center of the circle.
5. Ask each child to take turns in picking an activity cards and placing it either on the black "night" paper or on the yellow "day" paper.
6. *Why do you think there are so many more activities during the day than in the night?* (Because it's hard to do a lot while we're sleeping!)

7. ***How do we know if it's day or night?*** (It is light during the day and dark at night).
8. ***Is the sun always shining somewhere?*** (Yes! We'll learn more about that now. First we'll read a story and then we'll do a play to figure out what the Sun is doing when we can't see it).

Activity 2: Read a Story

Materials: Book: The Sun is Always Shining Somewhere

Activity:

1. Read the story to the entire class.
2. ***Does the sun go to sleep at night?*** (No. The sun is always shining somewhere).
3. ***If the sun isn't shining here, where is it shining?*** (It actually is shining on other parts of the earth when we can't see it. We're going to do a play to learn more about this now.)

Activity 3: Earth Play

Materials:

- 1 flashlight.
- 1 earth necklace.
- 1 sun necklace.
- 1 moon necklace.
- 2 cloud necklaces.
- 2 raindrop necklaces.

Activity:

1. Choose 7 actors for the play. Plan to do the play at least 2 times so that all of the children can participate. Here are the parts:
 - a. The Earth
 - b. The Sun
 - c. The Moon
 - d. 2 clouds
 - e. 2 raindrops
2. *We are going to find out what happens to the Sun when it is day and night, as well as when it's raining or cloudy outside.*
3. Tell the Earth to stand in the middle. Have the Sun (holding the flashlight) to stand on the Earth's right. Have the Moon stand to the Earth's left. Have the Earth face the Moon. Ask the Sun to shine the flashlight on the Earth's back. ***What time is it right now?*** (It's midnight. We can see the moon, but we cannot see the sun). ***Is the sun sleeping?*** (No, the sun is wide-awake. The sun is always shining. We just can't see it right now).
4. Ask the Earth to spin slowly to the left. ***Does the Earth always spin in the same direction?*** (Yes!)
5. ***As the Earth spins slowly, notice that the sun is coming up. This***

is morning time. As the Earth spins and directly faces the sun, we can't see the moon because it's behind us. Now it's noontime. Then it becomes evening and then it's night again.

6. *How long does it take for the Earth to spin around one time?* (It takes 24 hours - one full day - for the Earth to spin around one time).
7. *What happens to the sun when it is cloudy outside?* Ask the clouds to stand between the Earth and the Sun. *Is the sun still shining?* (Yes, the sun is still shining, we just can't see it because the clouds are blocking the sun).
8. *What happens when it is raining outside?* Ask the raindrops to stand between the Earth and the Sun. *Is the sun still shining?* (Yes, the sun is still shining, we just can't see it because the rain is blocking the sun).

Activity 4: Using the Globe

Materials:

- 1 flashlight
- 1 globe (supplied by teacher)

Activity:

1. Ask one child to be "the Sun" and shine the flashlight at the globe.
2. Ask the children to locate the United States on the globe.
3. Then ask the children to locate Georgia on the globe.
4. Shine the flashlight directly at Georgia. ***What time do you think it is right now in Georgia?*** (It is noontime because the sun is shining directly at us).
5. Slowly turn the globe counterclockwise. Ask them what time they think it is now. Show how when it's nighttime in Atlanta it is daytime in China & India.
6. Also, by slowly turning the globe, you can show how the sun rises on the east coast and sets on the west coast. You can also explain that this is why we have several time zones in our country.

Activity 5: Drawing Day & Night Pictures

Materials:

- Blank paper (supplied by teacher).
- Crayons (supplied by teacher).

Activity:

1. Ask each child to hold his/her paper horizontally and draw a line down the center of the paper.
2. On one side of the paper, they will draw a sun (day).
3. On the other side of the paper, they will draw a moon (night).
4. Ask the children to draw their favorite day and night time activities on the appropriate sides of the paper.
5. If there is time, the children can share their drawings with the class.