The Importance of Naming
A Lesson Plan
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Unit</th>
<th>The Importance of Naming</th>
<th>This unit can be used at any grade level with accomodations</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Curriculum Learning Objective(s):**<br>The student(s) will be able to: | **Procedure/ Activities:**<br>TSWBAT demonstrate knowledge of the writing process by reviewing and micro teaching a unit on the writing process.<br>State or national writing standards are addressed in addition to viewing and presenting language arts standards<br>TSWBAT analyze the naming process by reading about various naming procedures in other countries and cultures.<br>Standards addressed: Writing, Viewing and Presenting, Reading<br>TSWBAT demonstrate knowledge of how Ghanaians name their children by researching the naming process in Ghana.<br>Research Standards are addressed. | **Materials/ Methods:**<br>The Writing Process power-point presentation and/or handouts, or textbook outlining the writing process.<br>The Writing Process power-point presentation and/or handouts, or textbook outlining the writing process. | **Evaluation:**<br>The Writing Process power-point presentation and/or handouts, or textbook outlining the writing process.<br>Teacher Observation | **Homework:**<br>Monday: | **Wednesday:** | **Thursday:**<br>The teacher will present a case study of Ethiopia. How families name their babies. The teacher will present an essay from an Ethiopian student who writes about how he got his name. Ethiopians name their children after biblical persons and after they have witnessed the character their child displays. They find a character in the bible that demonstrates that personality such as the courage of David and name their children. It can be much later after birth. | **Homework:**<br>Monday: | **Wednesday:** | **Thursday:**<br>The teacher will provide background of Ghana, its geographic location, its important history, and note the primary languages spoken. Then, the teacher will show examples of the Days of the Week in the native language and ask students to pronounce these words. The teacher will show some pictures and/or video of Ghana, its people and landscape. The teacher will describe how babies are named in Ghana according to the day on which they were born and play the Kente cloth which has the American and Ghana names inscribed. The students will research their birth day and name. | **Homework:**<br>Monday: | **Wednesday:** | **Thursday:**<br>The teacher will tell a story about how they were named and mention some examples of the significance of names. The students will share their stories of how they were named for the class. Afterwards, the class will discuss the significance of naming and share any thoughts of lessons learned from this assignment. | **Homework:**<br>Monday: | **Wednesday:** | **Thursday:**<br>Teacher and student stories. Written essays. | **Homework:**<br>Monday: | **Wednesday:** | **Thursday:**<br>Teacher and student stories. Written essays. | **Homework:**<br>Monday: | **Wednesday:** | **Thursday:**<br>Teacher and student stories. Written essays.
Lesson Plan

What's in a name?

Delores Davis
Lesson Plan

Date __________________ Teacher: __________________

**ECE Arizona State Standard**: 9.0 Provide Opportunities for the Development of a Positive Sense of Self and Independence in Young Children

**Indicator**: 9.1 Demonstrate respect for culture, language and identity to establish a caring community of learners

**Student Objectives**
- Students will research the meaning of their given name and relate that meaning to their own culture and lives.
- Students will determine their African (Akan) name according to their birth day, birth order, gender and preference.

**Focus Question/Method**
- Question: Why do we need names?
- Display a Kente strip that shows an African name
- Share your personal story
- Discuss reasons why people change their names
- Teacher uses her/his Akan name today

**Activities**
- Have 2 or 3 students tell how they got their names
- Students view Powerpoint on African names and take notes
- Students research given names and African (Akan) names and their meanings online

**Vocabulary**
- Africa
- Akan
- Culture
- Identity
- Independence
- Sense of Self
- Reflection
- Heritage

**Materials/Equipment**
- Map of Africa or Globe
- Computers/Internet
- Paper and pencils
- Powerpoint Presentation
- Smart board
- White board

**Closure/Evaluation/Reflection**
- Students determine their Akan name and in a paragraph discuss positive aspects of the name as well as why and how it was chosen.

In the search engine type in the word *calendar* and the year you were born to find out the day of the week you were born on.

http://www.20000-names.com/female_african_names.htm
http://www.behindthename.com/nmc/afr.php
http://afrikannames.com/find-names/african-day-names/
What’s in a Name?

The Eden to Naming Ceremony
The distance from Phoenix, Arizona, USA to Accra, Ghana, West Africa is 7,251 miles.

The distance from Phoenix, Arizona to New York, New York is 2,148 miles.
Akan (Ah-Khan) People

- Live in West Africa
- Is the largest ethnic group in the country of Ghana
- Preserve their culture
- Speak the Twi language
- Are very religious
What is your name? What is its meaning?
Do you accept it? Are you willing to change it?
When Akan babies are born they are kept in the house for eight days. On the eighth day the father names the baby. The first name is called the kra den (soul name)
The soul name is determined by the day of the week that the child is born on.

Each day of the week has a special name for males and females.

This is because The Great God and Goddess, together, placed seven of their children over each day of the week.
Each of these seven children carry different spiritual characteristics which are passed on to the newborn by way of their name.

In other words, the name the newborn receives determines the kind of life he/she will have.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soul Names</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Kwadwó</td>
<td>Adwoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Kwabená</td>
<td>Abena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Kwakú</td>
<td>Akua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Yaw</td>
<td>Yaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Kofí</td>
<td>Afia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Kwámè</td>
<td>Ámìma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Akwasí</td>
<td>Akosua</td>
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The Akan Naming Ceremony

http://www.africawithin.com/studies/akan_naming_ceremony.htm
The naming ceremony is called the "eden to" (pronounced den toe). The ceremony must begin and end before sunrise. The baby receives gifts from family members and friends at the end of the ceremony. Everyone participates in a meal as well.
Questions:
1. Where do Akan people live?
2. What is the primary language of Akan people?
3. How long are Akan babies kept in the house after they are born?
4. Who names the baby?
5. What is the kra den?
6. How is the soul name determined?
7. What is the naming ceremony called?
8. When does the naming ceremony begin and end?
9. Does the baby receive gifts?
10. What two liquids are used during the naming ceremony?
Answers:
1. West Africa
2. Twi
3. Eight days
4. Father of the baby
5. Soul name or first name
6. The soul name is determined by the day of the week in which the child was born.
7. Den to (pronounced den toe)
8. The ceremony begins before sunrise and ends before sunrise.
9. Yes
10. Water and strong drink (alcohol)