

Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

Decorating your own treasure chest (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

20 minutes prep, 30 minutes of class time

This unit is meant to build on the child's understanding of wood as a material, where it comes from, and thinking of things that can be made out of wood. It uses the history of Bosnian carpentry and craftsmanship to facilitate these connections. The students will tour Bosnia and talk about carpentry and wood carving before designing their own wooden treasure chests.

Required Materials:

1. Small unfinished wooden box, one per child
2. Markers, (preferably Dab n Dot), one set per four children
3. Adhesive Jewels, about ten per child

Preparation: Separate materials out into the amounts needed for your activity groups/tables. We found it useful to count out the number of jewels for each child and place them inside the box.

Lesson Plan:

1. Begin by asking the children what country we live in, and then help them locate that country on a map or globe. Then show them where Bosnia and Herzegovina are on a map/globe. (5 mins)
2. Use the powerpoint or printed images to take the children on a tour of Bosnia, emphasizing the natural beauty and historical landscape. (see power point for more detailed notes on images) (5 mins)
 - a. First half of the powerpoint highlights the historical sites, countryside and culture of B+H.
 - b. Second half of the powerpoint concentrates on wood and wood carving. Start by asking the students if they know where wood comes from. Draw their attention to all of the trees in the images. Then ask them to identify things in the room or at home that are made of wood. Have them identify what is being made in the images.
3. Explain the craft activity to the class (10 mins):
 - a. First, they are going to take their jewels out of their boxes. They can peel off the adhesive backing, and decide where they want the jewels to go.
 - b. After the jewels have been placed, they can use the dab 'n dot markers to color the rest of their boxes. If you are using dab n dot markers, emphasize that they should not be dragged (like a normal marker), only pressed gently onto the box. Markers have to come after the jewels, otherwise the jewels will not stick to the wet wood.
 - c. Set aside boxes to dry, about an hour.

