

## **Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum**

### **A trip to the Gobi Dessert, and making you own Mongolian horses (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)**

*60 minutes prep, 30 minutes of class time*

This unit is meant to introduce the child to different kinds of domestic life. Almost 40% of the population in Mongolia still lives a nomadic lifestyle and sleeps in tents, or yurts. This lesson takes the class to Mongolia, and teaches them about the nomadic way of living, and the importance of horses to the Mongolian culture.

#### **Required Materials:**

1. Forty sheets of cardstock
2. Twenty dowels, ¼ inch diameter or so, 2-3 feet in length (they should have them at any craft store)
3. Markers, (preferably Dab n Dot), one set per four children.
4. Elmer's glue

**Preparation:** Cut out forty horse head templates. Staple two together to make twenty double sided horseheads. Staple them in such a way as to allow a dowel to be run between them, though do not do this until after the craft has been decorated by the class. Put 20 double-sided horseheads on the tables, along with craft supplies.

#### **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 Mongolia is on the map/globe. (5 mins)
2. Use the powerpoint or printed images to take the children on a tour of Mongolia, emphasizing the natural beauty and historical landscape. (see power point for more detailed notes on images) (5 mins)
  - a. First half of the powerpoint introduces the children to the idea of nomadism, and teaches them about Mongolian tents or yurts.
  - b. Second half of the powerpoint concentrates on horses and how important horses are to the Mongolian nomad.
3. Explain the craft activity to the class (10 mins):
  - a. First, they are going to take decorate their horseheads. They can make them whatever color and design they would like.
  - b. After they are decorated, and with the help of a teacher or aid, they are going to put glue on the end of the dowel, and run the dowel between the sides of their horseheads. Then they are going to set the horse heads to dry for 30 minutes.

