Jennifer Ryan

Lesson Plan

Title - Two Sides to Every Coin

2nd Grade

Objective: The student will understand that events in history can be looked at from different viewpoints.

Snappy launch  - Give each child a coin. Show the students how to flip a coin in the air using a thumb and index finger. Allow time for students to experiment with this new skill. After a few tries, tell students to look at the two sides of the coin. Tell them that each coin has a heads and a tails. Have the students  flip their coins 10 times and record which side of the coin it lands on. Discuss results and collect coins.

Lesson

1. Write this saying on the board "Every Coin Has Two Sides." Ask students if they know what that expression means. Elicit student responses.

2. Explain to the students that this saying means that everything has two different ways that you can view it or think about it.

3. Read the story "Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus" by Peter Sis.

4. After reading the story, tell the students that we are going to look at this event from both sides of the coin - Christopher Columbus' side and the native people's side.

5. Make a T chart on the board. Label one side "Christopher Columbus" and the other "Native People."

6. Under Christopher Columbus, write "Christopher Columbus claimed the new land for Spain."

7. Ask the students to think about the other side of the coin - the native people were there first and it was their land, not Columbus'. Write that under "Native People" on the T chart.

8. Continue the discussion in this fashion allowing students to generate their own thoughts about the story. If students need help, give suggestions for the Columbus side of the chart and have them think of the native people's viewpoint. Examples:

A lot of people think of Columbus as a brave explorer, but the native people might think of him as a cruel person who stole their land.

Columbus discovered a New World, but to  the native people it was an "old world" because they had been living there for a very long time.

9. Give students a large paper copy of a blank coin. Have them cut out the coin. On one side they are to write 2 sentences and make an illustration regarding Columbus' viewpoint. On the other they are to do the same  for the native people's viewpoint.

10. Have students share their coins with the class.

Assessment - This assignment is worth 100 points.

\_\_\_\_\_20 points - illustration of Columbus's viewpoint

\_\_\_\_\_20 points - 2 sentences about Columbus' viewpoint

\_\_\_\_\_20 points  - illustration of the native people's viewpoint

\_\_\_\_\_20 points - 2 sentences about the native people's viewpoint

\_\_\_\_\_10 points - oral presentation to the class about his/her coin