

He Says, She Says
(a comparative language study)

Developed by: by Jane Blaile 2008 WFTOTT™

Discipline / Subject: languages/culture/social studies

Topic: comparing phrases in multiple languages

Grade Level: can be modified for all grade levels

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs: language reference books, speakers, or online resources. Check with local museums or history societies for foreign languages speakers.

Lesson Summary: Students will compare how to say common phrases in multiple languages, including native Alaskan languages, in order to understand that all people communicate and even have the same expressions, but they use very different sounds to relay these common words.

Standard's Addressed:

national:

NL.K-12.9 Students develop an understanding of and respect for diversity in language use, patterns, and dialects across cultures, ethnic groups, geographic regions, and social roles.

Alaska state standards:

world languages B expand the student's knowledge of people and cultures through language study

A student meeting this standard should understand the relationship between language and culture, improve the student's understanding of the student's language and culture through experiences with other languages and cultures

Arizona state standards:

FL-S1 students understand and interpret written and spoken communication on a variety of topics in the target language

FL-S3 students present information and ideas in the target language on a variety of topics to listeners and readers

FL-S6 students develop insights into their own language and their own culture through the study of the target language

Learning objectives:

- appreciate the use of different languages (evaluation)
- compare and contrast similar phrases in different languages (analysis)
- evaluate the use of common phrases between different language speakers (evaluation)

Assessment:

Give an oral or written quiz on the words and phrases your students learn.

Have students create a collage of foreign language words and phrases matched to pictures of their meanings.

Procedural Activities:

1. Decide for your grade level what words and phrases you desire your students to compare. Prepare them in both written and audio format with accompanying pictures.
2. Lead a classroom discussion about what words and phrases students believe are common to all cultures, e.g., greetings, numbers, letters, animals, colors, basic needs, etc.
3. Gather any examples of these words and phrases students already know.
4. Students keep comparative information in a grade appropriate format such as a T-chart, or picture dictionary.
5. Review word/phrase lists before adding new ones.

Materials Students Need: paper, pencil, or other materials needed to record information

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning: Internet language sites, electronic foreign language dictionaries

Other Information: If you visit the Alaska Native Heritage Center website, and enter the "Learn" page, you can select the last link which will lead you to an extensive list of links for all aspects of learning about Alaskan native culture, one entire section devoted to languages. Here are just a few examples:

<http://www.uaf.edu/anlc/expressions.html>

This website has the written versions of common words and expressions compared across several Alaskan native languages.

http://www.knba.org/knba_nwod_archives.shtm

This website has archived Alaskan native language Word of the Day in audio format.

<http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/ynlc/>

Online native language lessons.

<http://www.capefoxtours.com/tingitphrases.html>

Audio Tlingit language lessons.

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:
enrichment:

Students compare the number of English words for snow to the 400+ native Alaskan words for snow.

Invite foreign language speakers to your classroom to teach your students words in their native language.

Older students may develop informal conversations using foreign/native language words and phrases.

Younger students may keep information in a picture dictionary format.