

Lesson 6: The People vs. Onion

Lesson Highlights

Objective

Student will:

- Learn about court procedures as they perform a mock trial.
 - Practice critical thinking skills as they participate in a mock trial.
 - Construct knowledge of onions and the digestive process.
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Curriculum Connections:

- Social Studies
 - Language Arts
 - Science
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Student Skills Developed:

- Social Studies Skills-court room procedures
 - Language Arts Skills-oral language and critical thinking
 - Science Skills-cause and effect
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Materials Needed:

- Mock Trial Script for each participant.

Activity:

Perform a Mock Trial: The People vs. Onions. This mock trial is written so a class can enact their own trial. This is written in the format of a play. The directions are given in italics, which the students should not read aloud. The jury does not use a script because their primary task is to listen. If there are more children than parts, it is suggested the teacher assign additional roles to include everyone. Possible roles could include: a student to read the “facts of the case” in the beginning, more alternate jurors than normal, reporters from various media outlets, law students observing a trial, interested family members, friends of the defendant, a relief person for the court reporter during the defense phase of the trial, and so forth. If you have court observers, interview them after the trial to provide opportunity for oral participation.

Extension:

Have students write a newspaper article describing the case.