MAY I?

Introduction: After being inside for the long winter season, children love to get outdoors and engage in physical activity when the first signs of spring arrive. A favorite group activity that children can participate in is dancing around the Maypole. This lesson combines writing an expository paper with marching and dancing around the Maypole.

Grade Level and Subject: Fourth grade Language Arts and P.E.

     PE 1A, 1E, 1H, 2B, 3A, 3E, 7A, 7C, 7D

Materials: paper, writing utensils, broomsticks (or any long thin post or pole), paper streamers or ribbons, colored tissue paper, tape


Activity: The teacher begins by describing what the Maypole is (a signifier of the coming of spring) and how it is made. He or she verbally describes the Maypole and how the children dance with it. The students, after listening carefully, will write an expository paper describing step-by-step how a Maypole is made and how it will be used on the playground. The students will then divide into groups. Each student will take turns reading his/her paper aloud as the other students in the group perform around the Maypole according to the directions given.

How to make the Maypole: Take a broomstick (or any thin post or pole), and hang long pieces of ribbon or streamers from the top. Students may want to decorate the streamers with paper flowers and other signs of spring. Students each take a streamer and march, dance, skip, or participate in some other physical activity around the Maypole. Music may be played at this time.