

**Title of the Curricular Unit:** Exploring Culture and Communication

**Name:** Allison Shuda

**School:** Prairie Elementary School, Waunakee, Wisconsin

**Subject Area:** Integrated Social Studies and Spanish

**Grade Level:** 2nd Grade

**Number of Lessons in the Unit:** Three

**Time Frame to Allow for Unit:** One Week

**Brief Narrative Describing the Unit:**

Mexico is the focus country for 2nd grade and students learn a lot about recent history in Mexico, and this unit introduces students to cultures of the past. This unit connects to past learning through timelines and it connects to future learning about diversity within the United States and Mexico.

In this unit students are introduced to object-based learning strategies, use the object-based learning strategies to learn about the Bonampak mural, review timelines and learn about placing events from the distant past on a timeline, and compare and contrast Maya murals to the murals in our school. Students will be learning about their own number system and the number system of the Maya. Students will learn about the way that they record information and the way that records were kept in Maya cultures. Students will be asked to look for similarities between their cultures in Waunakee, Wisconsin to the cultures of the Maya. The unit is taught in Spanish, but the lesson plans are written in English for clarity.

**Unit Teaching Objectives (what will the student be able to do upon completion of the unit?)**

- Students will be able to describe a portion of the mural at Bonampak.
- Students will be able to compare and contrast the mural at Bonampak to murals that we have in our school.
- Students will be able to communicate their age in Spanish using the structure “Tengo \_\_\_\_\_ años.” and visually represent their age with Maya numerals.
- Students will be able to compare and contrast our numerology system to the numerology system used by Maya communities.
- Students will be able to create a glyph representing their name using the Maya syllabary.
- Students will be able to introduce themselves in the target language (Spanish) using the sentence structure “Me llamo \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Unit Essential Questions (what are the most important concepts students should learn from this unit?)**

- What can we find out about the Maya people from the mural at Bonampak?
- What would people be able to tell about us from the murals in our school?
- How do different cultures interact with numbers?

How do different cultures record information?