

## The Circulatory and Respiratory Systems - lesson plan

Another great example of ARTS INTEGRATED EDUCATION is what is called *Simile Theater Exploration*. It has been demonstrated in the Human Body School performing arts program with profound, eye-opening, inspiring results. It's also really enjoyable. After all the word *simile* anagrams to *I smile!*

The way it works is simple. It goes beautifully with the idea of the 3D Blackboard (or Whiteboard, as the case may be). That is, instead of diagramming something on the board (in 2 dimensions), "diagram it" with your students in the center of your teaching space. Make a 3D diagram with living, moving parts!

That's the 3D Blackboard. The idea of *Simile Theater Enactment Exploration* goes a step further. Here's a description of what you can do in the Human Body School to 'teach' the circulatory and respiratory systems:

Imagine a group of forty children moving in a large figure 8 pattern in a large space. At the center of the 8 are eight children forming the heart. One lateral half of the figure 8 represents the RED arterial blood receiving oxygen from the lungs. The other lateral half of the figure 8 represents BLUE venal blood releasing carbon dioxide through the lungs.

There's more to it. The red blood people are marching with the red side of a reversible cap showing. The blue blood people are moving in a swimming motion with the blue side of the cap showing. All the children are singing the Red - Blue Song.

There's more to it still. Adjacent to one half of the figure 8 are children who represent the lungs, doing their respiration dance! Another two groups of children are going in and out of the lungs because they represent the air!

It is quite amazing to see the whole thing. It's all part of the *Body Opera*. As a result the children understand the circulatory and respiratory systems in an integrated way. They can assimilate the knowledge of the blood because they've 'been' the blood, they've acted it out! This is visual, auditory and kinesthetic learning combined with *holographic simile representation*.

*Arts Integrated Education* goes beyond the blackboard, the textbook and the lecture into real live human theater. The great adventure beckons you to give it a try!

The most important thing is to KEEP IT SIMPLE.

Here are a few question primers for your exploration:

- Why is some blood red and why is some blood blue?
- What are all the kinds of things carried in the blood?
- What are red blood cells? What are white blood cells?

What is the whole journey of the blood through the body?  
What is the job of the heart? (refer to the Heart Song)  
What is the anatomy of the lungs? (Larynx, trachea, bronchus, alveoli, diaphragm etc.)  
Why do we have ribs?  
Why is it important to breathe clean air?  
What's in the air?  
What does our body do with Oxygen?  
What does our body do with Carbon Dioxide?  
How do the lungs, heart and blood work together?

Make learning about the body fun and interesting! Getting to know about our bodies helps us to get to know ourselves! Most importantly, learning about the body and how to keep it fit and healthy engenders confidence, care and self-responsibility.

Learning is a living process! Enjoy the Human Body School.



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