Activity Plan

Unit: 23andMe Family History

Lesson: Continent Writing

Materials:

• 23andMe results
• Map of the continents
• Books about continents
• Atlases
• Computers and/or iPads for research

Goals:

• Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.
• Write informative/explanatory texts, such as naming the topic and identifying informative facts.
• Students will be able to list and answer questions about their continents of origin.

Steps:

Prep: As a class, research and read about each continent. Provide multiple ways for students to research and discover information about each continent. Make books and atlases available for free reading. During group times, brainstorm ideas and share information.

1. As a group, review and brainstorm ideas about each continent.
2. List some of the main ideas on the board or chart paper.
3. Students should work to create an informational paragraph about their heritage. They should begin by introducing each place they are from and listing a fact about each continent.
4. This activity may take more than one day. Students can work together or in small groups.
5. When finished with their maps and descriptions, students can take turns sharing their maps during group time.
Example:

- My family is from Asia.
- North America, South America, Africa, Europe, Asia has the world's tallest mountain, Africa.
- South America has the tallest waterfall in the world, North America.
- Touches three oceans, Europe is the second smallest continent.
The following course curricula was created and shared by Green Elementary School in East Point, GA.

**Unit:** 23andMe Family History

**Lesson:** Continent Maps

**Materials:**

- 23andMe results
- Map of the continents
- 1 large map printed for each child (blank for coloring)
- Crayons or markers

**Goals:**

- Students will identify and compare their continents of ancestral origin with classmates.
- Students will be able to identify each continent on a world map.
- Students will be able to say “This is (continent name)” or “Aqui esta (nombre del continente).”

**Steps:**

1. Review basic map skills, such as determining areas that are land vs. water. Have a few students take turn answering land or water while you point to random places on the world map.
2. Pass out large, blank maps and compare these maps to the large, colored map of the continents at the front of the classroom. Ask students if they are able to locate land areas and water areas.
3. Help students to identify the oceans on the map and pass out blue crayons or markers to color the oceans.
4. In small groups of 3 or 4 students instruct students to color in their continents or origins based on their 23andMe results. Use the same color for each continent on every map (Europe=purple Africa=red etc). It may take multiple days for every student to complete his or her map.
5. When the maps are colored, help students add their individual percentages to their map. This should be done one-on-one since each of the students’ percentages will be different.
6. When the maps are completed, break students up into pairs and have them discuss their maps. How many continents do you have in common? How many are different? Repeat with another partner.
7. An additional activity will be completed to write about the maps. Keep the maps at school until the continent writing activity from the previous Activity Plan is finished.
The following course curricula was created and shared by Green Elementary School in East Point, GA.

Example:
Unit: 23andMe Genes

Lesson: “You Share Genes with Me” Animal Similarities

Materials:

- “You Share Genes with Me” book
- Sentence strips (long rectangular paper)
- Magazines or printed animal pictures
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pictures of the tree of life (animals families)

Goals:

- Students will compare and contrast a variety of animals to humans.
- Students will be able to list similarities and differences between humans and other organisms.
- Students will be able to identify characteristics of a variety of animals.

Steps:

2. Talk about some of the similarities and differences between the organisms in the book and humans. Talk about animal groups and the relationship between the similarities in the animals discussed in the book and animals groups (other mammals are more similar to humans than animals in different animals groups).
3. Pass out sentence strips or other rectangular paper and have students draw pictures of themselves on one end of the paper.
4. Pass out magazines or printed pictures with a variety of animals.
5. Students will cut out animals and order the animals from least to most similar to them. Encourage the students to count the number of similarities they can think of for each animal and place them in order accordingly.
6. When students have finished ordering their animals and have checked with a partner, pass out glue and have students glue their animals in place.
7. Look at pictures of the tree of life and compare the proximity to humans on the tree of life to the predictions students made. Students can come up and share their work and talk about why they placed each animal in it’s place.
**Unit:** 23andMe Family History

**Lesson:** “Where are you from?” Graphs

- 23andMe results
- Map of the continents
- Chart paper
- Markers

**Goals:**

- Students will identify and compare their continents of ancestral origin with classmates
- Students will be able to say “I am from (continents)” or “Yo soy de (continents)” in response to the question “Where are you from?” or “De donde eres?”
- Students will be able to analyze and compare results using a class made graph

1. Review continents.
2. Pass out student maps from the lesson on Continent Maps.
3. Have students look at their maps and match them up with the large map to recognize the continents.
4. As a group construct a bar graph to represent the data. Students should supply as much information as possible (continent names, where do the number go etc.)
5. Go through each continent on the graph and have each student come up and add a smiley face (or other symbol) to the graph to represent his or her continents of origin.
6. When the graph is complete compare and discuss the results. Why is no one from Antarctica? Which continent are most of the students from? Least?
The following course curricula was created and shared by Green Elementary School in East Point, GA.

**Unit:** 23andMe Genes

**Lesson:** “You Share Genes with Me”

**Materials:**

- “You Share Genes with Me” book
- Books about the animals in the “You Share Genes with Me” book (mustard grass, fruit fly, zebra fish, mouse, rhesus monkey, chimpanzee)
- Chart paper
- Markers or crayons

**Goals:**

- Identify the main topic in the books and retell key details of a text.
- Students will compare and contrast a variety of animals to humans.
- Students will be able to list similarities and differences between humans and other organisms.
- Students will be able to identify characteristics of a variety of animals.

**Steps:**

2. Talk about some of the similarities and differences between the organisms in the book and humans.
3. Divide students into groups of 2-3 students to create Venn diagrams comparing an animal from the book to humans. Assign each student an animal from the “You Share Genes With Me” book.
4. Encourage students to think about physical characteristics, behaviour, diet, and habitat.
5. When diagrams are finished students should present their work to the class.
6. Hang the diagrams in order from least to most shared genes with humans.
7. Discuss why some groups have more similarities than others.