GORD DOWNIE & CHANIE WENJACK FUND

Lesson Plan

DWF LIVE: QATTUU AND INUIT TRADITIONS

SUGGESTED AGES:
Middle to High School

SUGGESTED SUBJECT AREAS:
Indigenous Studies, Music, Cultural Education

WATCH ON YOUTUBE

DURATION:
2 Periods (45 min for viewing and 45 min for Inquiry)

Disclaimer: Educators and group leaders are responsible for ensuring lessons and materials presented in their classrooms or groups are appropriate for their unique students.

LESSON OVERVIEW:

This lesson introduces students to Qattuu, an Ontario-based Inuk throat-singer from Pangnirtung, Nunavut. Through inquiry-based learning, students will explore Inuit traditions, the significance of throat singing, and Qattuu's impact as a cultural ambassador. Students will engage with Inuit culture and traditions, understand the role of music, and reflect on cultural representation.

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QATTUU AND INUIT TRADITIONS

OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand Inuit cultural practices and traditions
2. Learn about the art of throat singing
3. Explore the significance of Qattuu's contributions to cultural preservation and representation
4. Encourage students to ask critical questions about culture, music, and identity

MATERIALS:

- DWF LIVE Link
- Projector or screen for visual presentations
- Chart paper and markers for brainstorming and group discussions

LESSON PLAN:
DWF LIVE VIEWING (30 MINUTES):

- Participate in the live event on the **DWF YouTube Channel**.
- Ask students to take notes on topics or reflections.

INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES):

Discussion Starter: Begin with a brief introduction to Inuit culture, geography (Nunavut), and traditions. Explain who Qattuu is and her role as an Inuk throat singer. Show a short video of her performing.

- **Question for Students:** What do you already know about Inuit culture or throat singing?

INQUIRY QUESTION BRAINSTORM (5 MINUTES):

Ask students to come up with questions about Qattuu, Inuit traditions, or throat singing. Write the questions on the board or chart paper.

- **Examples of Student Questions:** Why do Inuit people practice throat singing? How does Qattuu represent her culture through music?

VIDEO AND GUIDED LISTENING (10 MINUTES):

Play a video of Qattuu performing throat singing. Have students focus on the sound, rhythm, and tone of the music.

- **Guiding Questions**: What emotions or stories do you think throat singing conveys? How does this music differ from other styles you're familiar with?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES):

Divide students into small groups to answer a set of inquiry-based questions related to the video and what they've learned about Qattuu and Inuit culture.

Discussion Questions:

1. What cultural significance does throat singing hold for Inuit communities?
2. How has Qattuu's international presence influenced the perception of Inuit culture globally?
3. What challenges might Indigenous artists face in preserving and sharing their traditions?
4. Why is it important for Inuit artists like Qattuu to be represented on the world stage?

CLASS REFLECTION (10 MINUTES):

Groups will share their discussion points and answers with the class. Lead a class reflection on the importance of cultural representation and preserving Indigenous traditions.

Additional Questions for Reflection: How does throat singing reflect Inuit values or the environment they live in? What role can music play in keeping cultural traditions alive? What did you learn from Qattuu's performance that you didn't know before?

CREATIVE ACTIVITY (OPTIONAL, 10 MINUTES):

Ask students to create a visual representation (drawing, collage, etc.) of how Qattuu's music makes them feel or what they learned about Inuit culture through her performance.

- **Wrap-Up Question:** Why is it important to learn about and respect different cultural traditions?

ASSESSMENT:

- Participation in group discussions and reflections
- Completion of the creative activity
- Responses to the inquiry questions and reflection

EXTENSIONS:

- Research more about Inuit traditions or other forms of Indigenous music
- Invite students to explore how different cultures use music to tell stories or maintain traditions