

Author: [Mary Jo Tribble](#)

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1. What answers do you now have for your teacher question (see first page of lesson plan)?

Our teacher question was, "To what extent does my questioning foster critical and creative thinking?"

I believe that the questioning methods we used, both in the original and the revised lessons, fostered a great deal of critical and creative thinking. My students' groupings of the items in their bags really demonstrated how creatively they were dealing with the materials before them. Although almost all the groups put the objects into the same two groups, they all came up with different unifying themes (e.g. food vs. culture, natural vs. man-made, "stuff you wear" vs. "stuff you eat").

Once the groups had discussed the items, their analysis of the vocabulary words and predictions of how they would be related to the lesson were right on target. Finally, they were very critical in their analysis of the two pictures. They immediately saw the two pictures as illustrations of the sacred/slaughter dichotomy, and they quickly picked up on the use animals to convey the message. Some of them came up with things I had never thought of myself. For example, the broken wheel in the painting of Ashoka's Conversion to Buddhism represented the Buddhist symbol of the Chakra Dharma, or Wheel of Life.

2. Do you have a new teacher question?

1. How can I infuse tactile elements into all my lessons?
2. How can I use all the learning styles in each lesson?
3. How can using all the learning styles in a single lesson increase student engagement?

3. How effective was the **revised** lesson in addressing the instructional goals?

I think that the revised lesson had two very useful elements. First, the task of grouping the items from the bags into two different groups really went a long way towards increasing the complexity level of the questioning. Second, the limiting of the vocabulary to four words and breaking the list up among the groups to define significantly increased the amount of time we had to discuss them in greater depth.

4. What have you learned from the lesson study process that will enhance future instruction?

I have learned that using novel techniques in the classroom increases student engagement and learning. In the future, I will definitely be adapting this lesson to other units of study. Furthermore, I have learned that if you strive to first stimulate students' creative sides, they will be more apt to take risks and think critically in subsequent classroom activities (i.e. comparing/contrasting, making predictions and value judgments based on primary sources/factual information, evaluating the ideas of others).

Author: [Eric Nelson](#)

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1. What answers do you now have for your teacher question?

My teacher question, to what extent does my questioning foster critical and creative thinking was answered very well in the original teaching of the lesson. They were very attentive and had a very intellectual approach to our essential

question; how was buffalo hunting evidence of the cultural differences between white settlers and Native Americans. When I re-taught the lesson my students were equally engaged in the lesson and were both critical of the lesson as well as creative in their responses to the essential question.

2. Do you have a new Teacher Question?

I do not have a new teacher question, I feel that this question was quite appropriate.

3. How effective was the lesson in addressing the essential question?

This lesson was very effective in addressing the question. The students were very involved in the discussion and figuring a way to figure out how to properly answer the essential question. We, the lesson study group, were all very pleased with the summary answers the students had for the assessment of the lesson.

4. IMPLICATIONS: How will this lesson influence how you will develop and teach future lessons?

The whole lesson study cycle was very helpful in the development and the re-teaching of the lesson. I feel that if it were possible to continue this cycle process I think that lessons would be much better developed and taught.

**Author:** [Christina Boza](#)

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1. What answers do you now have for your teacher question (see first page of lesson plan)?

I feel that my students were very active in both critical and creative thinking. They were definitely engaged in these types of thinking while searching through the bags of props. I took a little more time for my students to think more creatively when comparing and contrasting the pictures. I feel that they were not able to grasp the ideas as easily, and were thinking too literal.

2. Do you have a new teacher question?

The question that we used was to my liking for this assignment.

3. How effective was the **revised** lesson in addressing the instructional goals?

I believe that our lesson was revised well. The Venn Diagram worked much better this time around, and I feel that the lesson as a whole was revised better for both the teacher and the student. I do wish my students had more time with the bags, as they were really into them and wanted to explore

more.

4. What have you learned from the lesson study process that will enhance future instruction?

I truly appreciated the lesson study process. I greatly admired working with my colleagues, and felt that this study helped with my teaching of the lesson. I wish we had the opportunity to do this with more lessons to work out the “kinks”.

**Author:** [Brandy Faucett](#)

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1. What answers do you now have for your teacher question (see first page of lesson plan)?

I now realize that students can be motivated to discuss & question when given materials that spark their imagination. I had not ever given an assignment like this before, where students were to develop ideas based on pictures or items given to them.

2. Do you have a new teacher question? No

3. How effective was the **revised** lesson in addressing the instructional goals?

I loved it. I intend to create boxes for several units that I feel will work well with a mystery box. There are several cultures (I teach geography) that creating a box will hook students interest.

4. What have you learned from the lesson study process that will enhance future instruction?

I got new ideas and got to see a lesson from several other peoples' perspective. The process helped me to spot potential problems and plan for them.

**Author:** [Brandi Ortiz](#)

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## 1. What answers do you now have for your Teacher Question?

This lesson absolutely created critical and creative thinking. The beginning of the lesson where students are opening up the bag and discovering what is inside was such a fantastic way to start the lesson. Some of the things that students came up with during the lesson were simply genius. The vivid color in our transparencies (Primary Source Documents) and the added movie clip really caught the student's attention and made the lesson a huge success.

## 2. Do you have a new Teacher Question?

(Given the supplies) Can I incorporate even more hands on activities into my classroom?

### 3. How effective was this lesson in addressing the essential question?

I believe that our primary source documents were very good at showing different perspectives of nature and how it was viewed by people from the same culture.

### 4. IMPLICATIONS: How will this lesson influence how you will develop and teach future lessons?

I do teach much of the same way that we put together our lesson. I may not do some of the things as often, so I will make it my goal to put even more surprise bags and video clips into my future lesson plans.