

Indigenous peoples in Brazil

The Native Brazilian Culture is celebrated on April the 19th, so called “*Dia do Indio*”. There are some great projects that you make with your students in art class.

Samples:

Clay work – It will develop their fine motor skills and improve the sensorial area as well as by touching, feeling, grabbing, shaping, etc.

As Thomas Aquinas would describe “Human” as:

...a being with brains and hands. As such our greatest joy comes when we can employ both our brains and our hands simultaneously in ways which are creative, useful, and productive.¹

Play-dough is very nice to work with early aged kids, but the problems come when the teachers always use the gadgets/ accessories made by the toy companies which ruin their creativity development during their childhood. For Mr. Aquinas these kinds of support give the kids easy answers and suggestions for all they need and limit the possibilities to create things by themselves.

...gadgets like extruders, molds, cookie cutters, or any design suggestions or pattern books take original thinking, problem solving, and creativity. Too often when it is modeling time in a pre-school or a kindergarten the children rush over to the rolling pins and cookie cutters. If I want children to respond to clay in healthy creative ways, I first hide or trash the gadgets and any tools that limit possibilities.¹

So... lets use clay as the Native Brazilians do. There are so many possibilities of art work they can think of or be led to accomplish in a composition. If they are too young, they can use the sensorial area and discover new sensations.

To learn more about Native Brazilians you can look at <http://pib.socioambiental.org/en> There you will find much information about the Indigenous Peoples in Brazil.



1. BARTEL, Martin. Clay and Kids: the natural way to learn. Studio potter article. June 2002.