



- THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR FOLK ARTS IN EDUCATION

CONTEXT Since piloting our [Culture, Community, and the Classroom \(CCC\)](#) series in 2018, we have engaged traditional artists from diverse communities and connected them with public school teachers and museum educators in learning residencies. CCC uses a three-phase series model, starting with a 12-hour professional development workshop that includes artists, culture bearers, and regional educators learning together. The second phase pairs artists and teachers working together in a classroom. The final phase brings everyone who participated together in a program showcase to reflect on what was learned and to strengthen peer networks and connections. This lesson plan was shared with us by a teacher who participated in the CCC program. It can be adapted for use with a local artist in another region. Or, [Contact Us](#) to learn how to invite the named artist in this lesson to your learning space.

WHAT WE LOVE

Some of the most creative artist residencies come out of unexpected classroom collaborations. Not only does this set of lesson plans create connections between beekeeping and the art room, it also demonstrates how art can be a pathway to social emotional learning. Art teacher Sarah Edwards and guidance counselor Nina Muto worked with the Southern Tier Beekeepers Association to help students discover how they can work towards unity and community while still embodying their individuality.

CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND THE CLASSROOM GUEST ARTIST LESSON PLAN

LESSON TITLE: **Beneficial Bees**

AUTHOR AND TEACHER: Nina Muto, guidance counselor at Windsor C.R. Weeks Elementary School in Windsor, NY.

ARTIST COLLABORATOR: Southern Tier Beekeepers Association

LENGTH: 30 minutes (This lesson takes place after Lesson 1 of the “Bee Yourself” Lessons)

STANDARD(S) ADDRESSED: **ASCA Mindset and Behavior Standards**

- B-SMS 5. Perseverance to achieve long- and short-term goals
- B-SS 5. Ethical decision-making and social responsibility
- B-SS 10. Cultural awareness, sensitivity and responsiveness

MATERIALS/RESOURCES:

- Whiteboard and dry erase markers
- Paper and pencil for each student

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THE TEACHING POINT:

- Students will review the roles of bees in a colony and discuss how they relate to people in the community.
- Students will define community and different communities we belong to (Family, School, Neighborhood/ Town).
- We will discuss how human connections and community make us stronger together, creating positive cultures (food, language, clothing, tools, music, arts, customs, beliefs, and religion).

PURPOSE/CONNECTION:

In this discussion-based lesson plan, students will be connecting their role in their school, family, or community to the role of a bee completing its job in the hive. They will connect to how important it is to fulfill that job and recognize how they contribute and make an impact. Then, building on this discussion, students will generate ideas and images that will be used in their “Bee Yourself” art projects.

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN*

Opening Discussion

After reviewing the roles of bees in a colony, have students consider the following:

- a. What are the different communities you belong to (Family, School, Neighborhood/ Town)?

- b. What strengthens these communities and helps you and others to feel connected?
- c. What keeps your community healthy and supports well-being?

Model/Demonstration:

After discussing as a group, students will individually brainstorm ideas and images that can be used for the transparency of their hexagons in the art project lesson “Bee Yourself” (see the “Bee Yourself” lesson plan under “Downloads” on the main page of this lesson plan).

What makes you... YOU? Choose a community (family, school, neighborhood) and make a list of what makes you feel you belong. How do you contribute to making them strong?

Share/Closure:

Students will volunteer to share their brainstormed ideas with one another, highlighting how they positively contribute to their chosen community.

*Adapted from <https://www.learningtogive.org/units/beneficial-bees/beneficial-bees-middle-school>.

