Lesson Plan © Easy Access English

VISION QUEST

Preparation time 30 minutes

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Practice telling stories in the past tense. Comprehension activities, listening and reading. Review of the irregular past tenses.

Activity One - ***Discussion***.



1. Do you have a vision of how you want your future to be?
2. Do you feel that you have a 'calling' or a purpose in life?
3. Are you a spiritual person?
4. Have you ever tried to commune with nature to find out who you really are?
5. If you were an animal, what animal would you be?

Activity Two - ***Reading Comprehension***. - Read the text and answer the questions below.

A *vision quest* is a rite of passage, similar to an initiation, in some Native American cultures. It is a turning point in life taken before puberty to find oneself and the intended spiritual and life direction. When an older child is ready, he or she will go on a personal, spiritual quest alone in the wilderness, often in conjunction with a period of fasting. This usually lasts for a number of days while the child is tuned into the spirit world. Usually, a Guardian animal will come in a vision or dream, and the child's life direction will appear at some point. The child returns to the tribe, and once the child has grown, will pursue that direction in life. After a vision quest, the child may apprentice an adult in the tribe of the shown direction.Those who go on a Vision Quest believe that we are put on this earth for a special reason, but that reason is not always clear to us. We want to know what we need to accomplish in life for our highest benefit, and, in turn, the benefit of the world. The quest can reveal our life's purpose, but it is an arduous journey into the core of our being that we should only embark upon with sincerity.

Activity Three - ***Listening Comprehension***. **Lakota Sioux Vision Quests**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FySH1pFlUs



1. Why did the Lakota have to escape?
2. What were their lives influenced by?
3. Why was the vision quest important?
4. Why do people go on a vision quest?
5. What happens when an older child is ready?
6. How long does it last?
7. What do they establish contact with during the vision quest?
8. Why would a person besides a child go for a vision quest?
9. What does a person have to pay attention to during their quest?
10. What was Crazy horses first vision?
11. What does the white owl represent?
12. In conclusion what do people get from a vision quest?

Activity Four - **Story Telling. Read the text.**

In native American culture story telling is almost an art form. People practice telling stories and repeat them many times. The evenings are spent by the fire exchanging and repeating stories. They tell stories of ancient battles, spiritual stories and tales which keep their culture and tradition alive.



The Native American culture is known for its rich oral tradition – instead of using a written language to document their history, these indigenous people simply relied on their verbal language to share their history, customs, rituals, and legends through vivid narratives.

These powerful tales, often told by the tribal elders to the younger generations, not only related their tribal history; these tribal stories also entertained and preserved their culture. Each time a story was told, it breathed life into the culture, cultivated their verbal language, gave meaning to the tribe's history, and also taught life lessons about things like love, leadership, and honour, as well as their symbiotic connection to the earth and intimate relationships with the animals they depended on.

As a way to heighten the senses and encourage a deeper feeling of interconnectedness between tribal members and their environment, when these stories were told, they were often accompanied with song, music, spoken word, and dance. (http://www.prairieedge.com/tribe-scribe/native-american-tradition-storytelling/)

Activity Five - **Telling a story in the past tense.**

We generally use past forms to talk about past events. If you tell your story in chronological order, you can use the **past simple:**

I checked my reflection in the mirror. I drank my coffee, and then I called a taxi.

Use the **past continuous** to describe activities in progress at the time of your story, or to describe the background. *The sun was shining and it was a beautiful day. We were driving along the motorway quite quickly until we suddenly saw in front of us the warning lights to slow down. We were heading towards a huge traffic jam.*

Sometimes, you might want to avoid telling your story as one chronological event after the other. You can use the **past perfect (simple and continuous)** to add more interest to your story by talking about events that happened before the events in your story: *I had been thinking of an old Native American friend, who I had not seen for years when suddenly the phone rang, and it was him.*

I had wanted to visit some friends who had been living in an Indian reservation for the last five years.

Activity Six - **Tell your story....**

With your partner throw the story dice and tell a story through the images.
Try to use a variety of tenses. Try to use a good variety of adjectives to make it more exciting and use lots of expression and intonation in your voice!

Activity Seven - **Role Plays.**

A. Imagine you are setting out on your vision quest and your mother is saying good bye to you and giving you some advice.
B. You have just got back from your vision quest, you tell your father what you have decided to do for the rest of your life.
C. You are on your vision quest when you meet a wild bear!

D. You are sitting around the campfire telling a story about your own bravery in a battle when one of the other warriors disagrees with you and accuses you of telling lies.

Activity Eight - **A vision of the future ...**

Look at the images and using the future tense explain what vision of the future they inspire...











