



THE ART OF KNOWING

LESSON 12

RATIONAL KNOWLEDGE 3

Created by The Art of Knowing Collaborative  Arshad I. Ali, Ebtissam Oraby, Samuel Burmester

www.ArtOfKnowingCurriculum.com







OBJECTIVES

Reflect on processes of reasoning

Reflect on how emotions/affect shape/change rational thinking

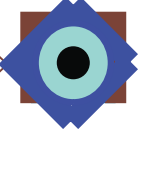
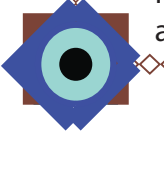


REQUIRED MATERIALS

6 stanzas from the “Blind Men and the Elephant” story, each one printed on a separate page

Big poster board and sticky notes in 3 different colors

Images of moments from the story of the “Fox, Pigeon and Heron”



LESSON OVERVIEW

Warm-up: Review rational knowledge

Activity 1: “The Pigeon, the Fox, and the Heron” - analysis and reflection on issues of affect and power

Activity 2: Small Groups - reflect on sound reasoning, power and affect

Closing Reflections






LEAD IN:



WARMUP: REVIEW RATIONAL KNOWLEDGE



ACTIVITY 1: PIGEON, FOX AND HERON SCENARIOS

1. Review the story with the class, then break into small groups
 2. Introduce the activity:
Each student is given a stanza from the poem
Pigeon is worried because she has eggs and Heron advises her (flashback)
Fox comes to ask for eggs and Pigeon says no
Fox tricks the Heron
 3. Have each group answer the following questions:
What is the character observing?
What is the character thinking (previous knowledge)
What is the character concluding?
How does the character feel at this moment?
Is there anything else affecting the conclusions or decisions that the characters are making (fear, identity, other emotions?)
How are the character's feelings affecting their thinking?
- 



ACTIVITY 2: SMALL GROUPS

1. Introduce a new scenario by giving the students a different beginning of a story, but stop when the dilemma arises.
2. Tell the students they get decide what the character does in the scenario, but they need to:
 - a. Demonstrate what the character already knows, what they observe or witness, and what decision they make.
 - b. Add details about what they are feeling or what other forces are affecting their decision making.
3. Have the students share their stories with the rest of the class.

WHAT IS THE ART OF KNOWING?

The Art of Knowing Curriculum is designed as a supplement to elementary science education. It intentionally places Muslim Ways of Knowing at the center of science learning. It is designed to engage students in exploring “how we come to know” by asking questions about when, where, and why we use various ways of knowing through stories, art, and discussion. We offer suggestions for how to incorporate the curriculum as a once-weekly class, but the curriculum and other resources can be taken up in a variety of ways that suit the needs of your community.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

We developed a curriculum that bridges science pedagogy and Muslim Ways of Knowing.

Through this research and teaching project, we explore the possibilities of teaching science through a non-western perspective and creating a space for young people to imagine possible futures through thinking not only about what is taught, but also about the teaching practices, activities, and artifacts in the classroom. Through engaging with art and storywork, we produced a curriculum that draws from classical Muslim systems of knowledge. We engage pre-colonial literature from the Muslim world to explore how young people come to know and how they relate to, and act on, what they know.

Our larger research project aims to open the space for interdisciplinary scholarship that focuses on inclusive STEAM education; offer non-Eurocentric approaches to science education; and, appreciate multiple, and culturally-situated, ways of understanding science.

THIS WORK WAS FUNDED BY

The Social Science Research Council (Grant Number: 48720-1-ECNS22004N)
The Spencer Foundation (Grant number: 202300086)

AUTHORS & CURRICULUM DEVELOPERS

Arshad I. Ali, Ebtissam Oraby, Samuel Burmester

The Art of Knowing Curriculum was developed in conversation with Ahmed Ghassab, and Mary Catherine Flynn while teaching at the MEDINA MONTESSORI SCHOOL in Falls Church, Virginia

ART DIRECTION & ILLUSTRATION

Susu Attar

SUGGESTED CITATION

Art of Knowing Collaborative (2024). Art of Knowing Curriculum: Lesson 1, Washington, DC & Santa Cruz, CA: Art of Knowing.

