Rebecca East

5 BASIC TYPES OF STAGE KNOTS

Description: In the theatre there are 5 basic types of stage knots that are used in backstage production. Students need to be trained in these types of knots and know their functionality as part of the Scenery unit in Technical Theatre I.

Subject Matter: Stage knots, SWL, types of rope, scenery

Rationale: In order to be fully trained as a safe stagehand, these 5 main types of knots can be used for most stage needs for most shows. In after-school productions and in-class scenic projects, students need to know the function and application of these knots.

Materials Needed: 6-7 Folders with cut-out cards that have the knot names, images, and a fun fact about them, 2 ropes of different colors for each student and teacher, computer with powerpoint, projecting surface, powerpoint: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1p05dOSlVK2SPupdISTNiu2xhDZBV06rDKIHLF3h eRnM/edit?usp=sharing

Objectives: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to...
   - Define and assess what the SWL (safe working load) of a particular knot/rope is
   - Tie 6 different types of knots (bowtie, bowline, square, clove hitch, figure 8, and a finishing knot)

TEKS Addressed:
117.323.C.3.A: identify the safe use of tools and materials in scenery and property construction
117.323.C.1.A: define standard vocabulary in costumes, lights, makeup, theatre management, properties, scenery, and sound
117.323.C.1.D: recognize safe theatre practices such as personal safety, fire safety, tool safety, shop safety, and handling emergencies in the theatre

Time: 90 minutes

Lesson

Preset: Have 7 folders with name, description, and image cards that can be used for a matching game, have a box full of ropes for everyone to have 2 ropes that are two different colors, and a computer connected to a TV or projector

Activities and Timeframe:

Check In (3 minutes)
Go around the room and ask everyone if they have any stories they want to share from the last time the class met. Take attendance.

Matching Game (20 minutes)
Divide everyone in the class into groups of 3 or 4 and give each group a folder that contains the types of knots (bowtie, bowline, clove hitch, square, and figure 8), a description/fact about them, and an image of them. Give each group time to try and match the correct image, name, and description. They can only ask one of three questions to the teacher, 1) How many do I have right? 2) How many do I have wrong? 3) What's one specific thing I want to know the answer to? Whoever successfully matches everything correctly first gets a piece of candy.

Pick Up Folders / Pass Out Ropes (2 minutes)
Gather the matching game materials and put them away. Pass out 2 ropes of the same length and of different colors to every student.

Going Through The Powerpoint, Trying Knots (63 minutes)
Click through the slideshow and elaborate on why we tie knots, different types of rope (synthetic vs. natural), the necessity of knowing SWL, qualities of good knots, and the 5 knots we will be practicing. As you get to the types of knots let the students practice tying them and go around to each student to make sure they can tie that knot. Don't move on to the next knot until everyone can tie it successfully. Let other students help others once they have successfully tied the knot themselves. As the powerpoint goes on, have students fill out a note sheet (attached) to be taken for a grade.

Closing (2 minutes):
Gather ropes and any other materials that may be out and ask how everyone feels class was for them today. Use this open dialogue as a casual check-out.

Extension Activity/Homework (if any):
None.

Contingencies:
- If not everyone gets through tying all the knots, continue going through the powerpoint and practicing the next time class meets

Stage Knot Knotes
Tech Theatre

Rope/ knots:
Uses in Tech Theatre-

Synthetic vs. Natural-

Leading/ working edge-

Five Basic Stage Knots:
Bowtie-
How-
Uses-

Square-
How-

Uses-

"granny"-

Bowline-
How-

Uses-

Clove Hitch-
How-

Uses-

Finish/ not finish-

Figure 8-
How-

Uses-

Loop-

Finish Knots-