

**LESSON: Power Animal Puppets**      **GRADE: 1****OBJECTIVES:****Geography-****SS.K-2.G.2 Understand how geographic and human characteristics create culture and define regions.**

- Understand the concept of culture.

**MATERIALS & RESOURCES:**

- Books:
  - *Animal Speak*, Andrews
  - *Whale in the Sky*, Siberell
- Brown paper lunch bags
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Pencils

**PRESENTATION:**

Explain that First Americans believed that animals and humans are meant to be friends and help each other. Each animal, bird, or fish has special strengths or powers that help it survive and succeed. Here are a few examples: Antelope-speedy and smart, Beaver-builder, Cat-independent, Deer-gentle, Dog-faithful protector, Elephant-strength, Otter-playful, Spider-creative.

One definition of culture is- *“the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group.”* Another definition is- *“the integrated pattern of human behavior that includes thought, speech, action, and artifacts and depends upon the human capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations.”* Discuss with class what animals have to do with our thoughts, speech, actions and so forth. Ask them to notice aspects of culture though out the activity and perhaps the remainder of the day.

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. After presentation, ask students: What animal is your favorite? Do you dream about animals? Talk about why the might love a certain animal most and what it's special power might be. Ask students if they know of other stories or parts of our culture in which we find animals.
2. Have students choose an animal or two to be their power animal puppets.
3. Using a brown lunch bag, show students how to make the puppet open and close it's mouth with your hand in the bag.
4. Demonstrate how to cut out of construction paper, a few details, such as ears, whiskers, and antlers. Then show how to attach the details with glue sticks.
5. When animals are complete, store them for future use.

**TIME:****60-80 min****PROCESSING THROUGH THE SIX PILLARS:****WHAT:**

- What power animal did you chose and why?

**SO WHAT:**

- What special power does your power animal have and how will this special power help it to survive in the wild?
- What special power does your power animal have that will help it to be a good friend to others?

**NOW WHAT:**

- Each power animal has its own special power, which makes it different. Respect means we are tolerant of differences and treat all others with respect regardless of how they are different from us.