Beaded Bag Lesson Plan: Overview

Computer Science Standards:
  Use the basic steps in algorithmic problem solving to design solutions.
  Describe and analyze a sequence of instructions to be followed.
Essential Understanding:
  EU 6: History from the American Indian Perspectives
Montana Content Standards:
  Visual Arts 8: Construct meaningful interpretations of artistic work.

Anchor Text:

In 2009, the Montana Historical Society presented a special exhibit entitled "Tradition, Design, Color: Plateau Indian Beaded Bags from the Fred Mitchell Collection." The accompanying brochure gives historical context for the beaded bags and is the central text for this lesson.

Beaded bag, ca. 1920.

Summary:

This lesson investigates the history of beaded bags and their connections to the tribes of the Columbia Plateau and introduces computer science concepts through storytelling. We have selected a bag from the Fred Mitchell Collection, and center class discussions around interpretations of what the scene may depict. Using historical context, students are asked to imagine what happens next in the scene, and to animate their scene using Alice.

Starter world screenshot.

Day 1:
1. Read and discuss brochure.
2. Examine Alice world.
3. Brainstorm their stories.

Day 2:
1. Recall previous day's lesson.
2. Animate their stories.
3. Share and discuss coding..