

DRAMA AND ROLE PLAY METHOD IN TEACHING HISTORY

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Abstract:

Drama and role play are two teaching methods that can be used to enhance learning in history. These methods can help students to develop a deeper understanding of historical events and concepts by allowing them to experience the past in a more personal way.



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Keywords : Drama, role play, teaching history

Drama

Drama is a form of theatre that involves the enactment of a story or event. In history education, drama can be used to recreate historical events, to explore different perspectives on the past, or to develop students' understanding of historical concepts.

For example, students might use drama to recreate the Boston Tea Party, to explore the perspectives of different people involved in the American Revolution, or to develop their understanding of the concept of citizenship.

Role play

Role play is a method of learning in which students assume the roles of historical figures or characters. In history education, role play can be used to help students understand the motivations and actions of historical figures, to develop empathy for people from different cultures, or to explore different points of view on historical events.

For example, students might role-play as George Washington or Thomas Jefferson, as Native Americans during the westward expansion, or as refugees fleeing war.

Benefits of Using Drama and Role Play in Teaching History

There are a number of benefits to using drama and role play in teaching history. These benefits include:

Engagement :

Drama and role play can be very engaging for students, which can help to keep them motivated and interested in learning about history.

Active learning :

Drama and role play are active learning methods, which means that students are actively participating in their own learning. This can help them to develop a deeper understanding of historical concepts and events.

Perspective-taking:

Drama and role play can help students to develop empathy and understanding for people from different cultures and backgrounds. This can be an important skill for understanding the past and for living in a diverse society.

Critical thinking:

Drama and role play can help students to develop critical thinking skills by requiring them to analyze historical events and perspectives.

Challenges of Using Drama and Role Play in Teaching History

There are also some challenges to using drama and role play in teaching history.

These challenges include:

Time: Drama and role play can be time-consuming to plan and implement. This can be a challenge for teachers who are short on time.

Skills: Teachers need to have some skills in drama and role play in order to use these methods effectively. This can be a challenge for teachers who are not familiar with these methods.

Comfort level: Some students may not be comfortable participating in drama or role play. This can be a challenge for teachers who want to use these methods with all students.

Conclusion

Drama and role play can be valuable teaching methods for history. These methods can help students to develop a deeper understanding of historical events and concepts by allowing them to experience the past in a more personal way. However, there are some challenges to using these methods, such as time constraints and student comfort levels. By carefully considering these challenges, teachers can use drama and role play to create engaging and effective learning experiences for all students.

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