

Lesson Plan

Exploring Day and Night

Grade Level: Year 2

Subject: Science - Earth and Space Sciences

Strand: Earth and Space Sciences

Duration: 60 minutes

Australian Curriculum:

- **Science Understanding:** Earth and space sciences -
Observable changes occur in the sky and landscape
- **Science Inquiry Skills:** Respond to questions about familiar objects and events

Lesson Objectives:

- Students will understand the concept of day and night and the Earth's rotation.
- Students will be able to explain the observable changes in the sky during the day and night.

Materials Needed:

- Globe or model of the Earth
- Flashlight or lamp
- Large ball (e.g., tennis ball) and small flashlight for demonstration
- Chart paper or whiteboard
- Markers
- Pictures or diagrams of day and night scenes
- Worksheet with simple activities (optional)

Lesson Sequence:

1. Introduction (10 minutes):

- Begin by asking students about what they know about day and night. Prompt them to share their observations and experiences.
- Introduce the topic of the Earth's rotation and how it causes day and night. Use a globe or model to demonstrate (e.g., rotating the globe while pointing out day and night areas).

2. Demonstration and Discussion (15 minutes):

- Conduct a simple demonstration using a large ball (representing the Earth) and a small flashlight (representing the Sun).
- Explain how the Earth rotates on its axis, causing different parts of the Earth to face towards or away from the Sun, resulting in day and night.
- Show pictures or diagrams of day and night scenes to reinforce the concept. Discuss observable changes in the sky (e.g., sunrise, sunset, stars appearing).

3. Activity - Day and Night Sky Observation (20 minutes):

- Divide students into pairs or small groups.
- Provide each group with a picture of a day and night sky scene.
- Ask students to observe and discuss what they see in each picture, noting the differences between the day and night sky.

- Guide them to identify key features such as the Sun, Moon (if visible), stars, and colours of the sky.

4. Recording and Sharing Findings (10 minutes):

- Gather students back together and ask each group to share their observations about the day and night sky scenes.
- Record their findings on chart paper or the whiteboard, highlighting key differences they identified.
- Facilitate a class discussion to consolidate understanding and clarify any misconceptions.

5. Review and Conclusion (5 minutes):

- Review the concept of day and night and summarize what students have learned about the Earth's rotation and observable changes in the sky.
- Conclude by linking their new knowledge to everyday experiences (e.g., why it gets dark at night and light during the day).

Extension/Assessment:

- Provide worksheets with activities where students can draw and label day and night scenes, showing their understanding of the concepts learned.
- Observe group discussions and participation during the activity to assess comprehension.

Homework (optional):

- Encourage students to observe and document changes in the sky over a week, noting differences between day and night.

Reflection:

- Reflect on how well students grasped the concept of day and night and the Earth's rotation. Adjust future lessons based on their understanding and any difficulties they may have encountered.
