Lesson Plan

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Photosynthesis Party

By: Amanda Martin
Elementary school music teacher; M.A.Ed. In Curriculum and Instruction

Science
Grades 9–12

Introduction

Let's have a photosynthesis party! In this lesson, students will learn the steps of photosynthesis and how it converts light energy into chemical energy. Students will have a "party" while creating models in small groups.

Learning Objectives

(NGSS-HS-LS1-5 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes) Students will use a model to illustrate how photosynthesis transforms light energy into stored chemical energy.

Materials Needed

- Journals or notebooks
- Playdough or modeling clay

Procedure

1. On the board, display an image with this lesson's key term, photosynthesis. Ask students to brainstorm about the meaning of that word. (This should not be new information for most students, but this will give them an opportunity to recall their previous knowledge on the subject.) Allow students to brainstorm for roughly three minutes. Then, allow students an opportunity to share out their ideas on the topic.

2. Students will need to develop a greater understanding of the processes of photosynthesis. Walk through each step of the process of converting light energy into chemical energy. It may be helpful to display pictures on the board that model the steps. Students will need to take note of these steps in their journals/notebooks. This will help them complete the "photosynthesis party."

3. Now, it is time to have a "photosynthesis party!" Students should be divided into groups of three. Each group will need several containers of playdough or modeling clay. Here's how the party will work:
   - Groups will make models of photosynthesis depicting the steps of light energy converting to chemical energy.
   - Groups will work together to start making the model. They must create the model in the correct order of steps.
   - At any time, the teacher will ask students to stop working and initiate the party. Students must stop what they are doing and move to the next group's work area. For the party, the teacher may play fun music, turn out the lights, require students to dance, or even employ the use of a disco ball!

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- From there, the teacher should stop the party. Groups will be located at a new work area, and they must determine where the previous group's work stopped (in the steps) and continue on.
- Groups should switch several times with the music throughout the model making process.

4. To close the lesson, students should complete an exit ticket. On a piece of paper, students should work individually to draw a model of the steps in photosynthesis. Students should label key parts of the model and turn in their work before leaving the classroom.

Evaluation

During the concluding activity, students will draw a model depicting the steps of photosynthesis. The teacher should evaluate each student's work to ensure that all steps are accounted for.