Unit #1 Title: Interacting With Others In Ways That Respect Individual and Group Differences

Lesson Title: Origins: A Simple Word Game For Use In Human Relations Trainings Lesson 4 of 7
Grade Level: 10

Length of Lesson: 30 - 45 minutes

Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Big Idea:
PS.2: Interacting With Others In Ways That Respect Individual and Group Differences

Grade Level Expectation (GLE):
PS.2.B.10: Promote acceptance and respect for cultural differences within the global community

American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Standard:
Personal Social Development
A. Students will acquire the knowledge, attitude, interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.

Materials (include activity sheets and/or supporting resources)
Timer
Three judges
Instructions for “Origins: A Simple Word Game for Use in Human Relations Training
Definitions: Origins: What do these words or phrases mean?
Activity Sheet: Origins: What do these words or phrases mean?

Information pertaining to this activity may be found at the following location:
Teaching Tolerance
400 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
www.tolerance.org www.teachingtolerance.org

Show Me Standards: Performance Goals (check one or more that apply)

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<tr>
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<th>Goal 1: Gather, analyze and apply information and ideas</th>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>1. Develop questions and ideas to initiate and refine research</td>
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<td>7. Evaluate the accuracy of information and the reliability of its sources</td>
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<th>Goal 2: Communicate effectively within and beyond the classroom</th>
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<td>2. Review and revise communications to improve accuracy and clarity</td>
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<td>3. Exchange information, questions and ideas while recognizing the perspectives of others</td>
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<th>Goal 3: Recognize and solve problems</th>
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<td>Goal 4: Make decisions and act as responsible members of society</td>
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This lesson supports the development of skills in the following academic content areas.

Academic Content Area(s) Specific Skill(s)

Missouri Comprehensive Guidance & Counseling Programs: Linking School Success to Life Success

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### Enduring Life Skill(s)

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<th>X</th>
<th>Perseverance</th>
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<td>Courage</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Respect</td>
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<td>Goal Setting</td>
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### Lesson Measurable Learning Objectives:

The student will write a journal entry including at least one feeling and two thoughts about stereotypical sayings.

### Lesson Formative Assessment (acceptable evidence):

Assessment should relate to the performance outcome for goals, objectives and GLE. Assessment can be question answer, performance activity, etc.

Subjective observation of the activity.

### Lesson Preparation

**Essential Questions:**
Why is respect for self and others important?

**Engagement (Hook):**
Music and publicity over the announcements reflecting respect.

### Procedures

#### Instructor Procedures/Instructional Strategies:

**Note:** The specific instructions for this lesson may be found on the *Origins: A Simple Word Game for Use in Human Relations Training* handout.

In advance, decide which words will be used for each round. Copying the word lists for each round on different colors of paper (e.g. Round One on yellow paper—Round Two on blue).

#### Student Involvement/Instructional Activities:
Choose three students to be judges and give each judge a set of instructions; put remaining students in groups of 5 - 6 people.

1. Put words/phrases for Round One face down on the table and inform students they will have 4 minutes per round. Start the timer with 4 minutes.

2. At the end of four minutes, students are instructed to put down their pens. Ask each group to read the answers for the first word. After each group has answered, read the explanation from the definition sheet.

Each judge records the score on his or her score sheet.

Continue activity with each word or phrase.

3. Closure: Have students do a two-minute private writing regarding their thoughts and feelings as they discussed the words. Ask students to share their thoughts. Encourage students to monitor their words to show respect for others.

1. Students will thoughtfully participate in “Origins” as either group participants or judges. For each round, students will give the common usage and origins of the words or phrases.

2. Students must come up with an answer even if they have never heard of the word or phrase. The judges will assign the points for each round.

3. Students will complete a thoughtful 2 minute-writing in their journal. Students may volunteer to tell the class one of his/her thoughts.

**Teacher Follow-Up Activities**

Instructor gives students an opportunity to create other words that may have similar meanings as those expressed in the activity.

**Counselor reflection notes (completed after the lesson)**
Instructions for Origins: A Simple Word Game for Use in Human Relations Training

Note to Instructor:

You need an inexpensive kitchen timer for this activity. Copying sheets on colored paper will make it easier for you to keep the question sheets for each round together. After handing out the instructions below to three randomly selected judges, the instructor does not need to do anything.

Instructions to Judges:

1. Put students in groups of 5-6 people.
2. Put questions for Round 1 face down at tables; start the timer with 4 minutes.
3. At the end of 4 minutes, tell the students to put down their pens. Ask each group to read its answer for 1. After each group has answered, read the answer from the definitions sheet. Each judge records the points on her/his score sheet. Continue doing this with each question. No one can challenge the judges’ scores or ask to see the score sheets.
4. Repeat #2 with questions for Round 2, etc.
5. Add each judge’s points on the board after each round and announce winners.

Instructions to Groups:

Each group will have 4 minutes for each round. For each round, give the common usage and origin of words or phrases on the sheet. You must come up with something even if you have no idea what it means. There are two possible points for the common usage and three possible points for the origin of the word or phrase. The judges will assign the points for each round.
Activity Sheet: Origins: What Do These Words or Phrases Mean?

(Adapted from Sudie Hofmann's introduction to “Origins”.
http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=657 )

The word game Origins reveals the history and prejudice of many words or expressions commonly used in the United States. We use these words or phrases everyday without thinking about their original meaning. If we knew the origin of the words, would we use them? This game will help you decide for yourself.

Following is a list of words – Describe their common usage and their origins (if you don’t know the usage or the origin, make up something that seems “right”).

General Rules: Three judges will be selected from the class; the rest of you will work in small groups. There will be two rounds (your instructor will tell you which words from the list are included in each round); during each round you will have four (4) minutes to work together and write the common usage and origin for the designated words (you MUST write an answer -- even if you have no idea of the meaning or origin—make one up!); at the end of four (4) minutes, groups will report their answers.

Earning Points: Two (2) possible points for the common usage; three (3) possible points for the origin of the word or phrase. Judges will award points.

At the end of each round, the judges will read the actual definitions and origins of the terms from the key.

1. Gypped
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

2. Jew you down
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

3. Mulatto
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

4. Lame
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

5. Hick
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
6. Evil eye
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________________
Origin: _______________________________________________________________________

7. Iron Maiden
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________________
Origin: _______________________________________________________________________

8. Indian giver
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________________
Origin: _______________________________________________________________________

9. Paddy Wagon
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________________
Origin: _______________________________________________________________________

10. Russian roulette
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________________
Origin: _______________________________________________________________________

11. Hag
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________________
Origin: _______________________________________________________________________

12. Chinese fire drill
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________________
Origin: _______________________________________________________________________

13. Chinese home run/Harlem home run
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________________
Origin: _______________________________________________________________________
14. Jaywalking
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

15. Bury the Hatchet
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

16. Bedlam
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

17. Corny
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

18. Hold down the fort
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

19. Welsh (verb)
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

20. Low person on the totem pole
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

21. Indian summer
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

22. Dutch bargain
Common usage: ______________________________________________________________
23. Dutch treat
Common usage: ________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

24. Redneck
Common usage: ________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

25. Gypsy Cab
Common usage: ________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

26. On the Warpath
Common usage: ________________________________
Origin: ______________________________________________________________________

What do you think? Now that you know the origins of these words and phrases, will you continue to use them? What words might you use instead?
Definitions: Origins: What Do These Words or Phrases Mean?

1. **GYPED**
   Common usage: One has been cheated.
   Origin: Belief that Gypsies (Hindu people from East India & Balkan states) will cheat you or steal from you.

2. **JEW YOU DOWN**
   Common usage: Hard negotiation to lower a price.
   Origin: Belief that Jewish people are cheap and unethical in business. Longstanding literary references promote stereotypes that relate Jewish people to the practices of money changing usury.

3. **MULATTO**
   Common usage: One African American parent and one White Parent.
   Origin: Spanish word for a mule, which is the sterile offspring of a horse and a donkey. There is some evidence that it is also an Arabic word.

4. **LAME**
   Common usage: A statement or behavior that is foolish or not well reasoned.
   Origin: Belief that someone with a disability is incompetent of stupid.

5. **HICK**
   Common usage: To describe something that is unsophisticated, outdated or stupid.
   Origin: 16th century nickname for the given name Richard. Refers to a person who lives in the country.

6. **EVIL EYE**
   Common usage: Evil or dirty look.
   Origin: Belief in Europe and the Middle East that women could possess and evil eye, especially common in European witch trials.

7. **IRON MAIDEN**
   Common usage: Tough, humorless woman.
   Origin: Large metal enclosure coffin shaped and lined with iron spikes. Used during witch trials to torture and kill woman suspected of being witches.

8. **INDIAN GIVER**
   Common usage: Taking back a gift.
   Origin: Indigenous American communities had a different concept of ownership; the focus was on sharing or trading. Things given to the colonists by Native Americans may have been reclaimed from colonists if they did not reciprocate.

9. **PADDY WAGON**
   Common usage: Police van.
   Origin: Derogatory term for Irish people based on the Irish name of Padaig. Although, in the past, many police officers on the East Coast were Irish, some also contend that this was a cart used to round up Irish immigrants for disorderly behavior.
10. RUSSIAN ROULETTE
Common usage: Potentially fatal game of dare with a revolver, which applies the concept of roulette.
Origin: Belief that Russian culture is fatalistic.

11. HAG
Common usage: Ugly or old woman.
Origin: Holy woman. Derived from Egyptian heq, meaning matriarchal ruler.

12. CHINESE FIRE DRILL
Common usage: All occupants of a car stopped at a traffic light quickly exit the car, run around the vehicle, and return to the car through the same door.
Origin: Belief that Chinese culture is chaotic and the implication is that Chinese people are stupid and would run back into a burning building.

13. CHINESE HOME RUN/HARLEM HOME RUN
Common usage: Perceived unfair home run because of a mythical short fence around the field.
Origin: Stereotype originated in California, based on the reality that Chinese labor was cheap and the expression eventually meant “cheap shot.” Sportswriters have also referred to some home runs as homefoo you, chow mein smash, and egg roll bingle.

14. JAY WALKING
Common usage: Violating pedestrian laws.
Origin: Belief that a jay, a person uneducated about city life, was incapable of crossing the street legally.

15. BURY THE HATCHET
Common usage: To settle one’s differences.
Origin: A 14th century British song titled “Hong up then hatchet ant thi knyf.” No historical usage by Indigenous people of North America.

16. BEDLAM
Common usage: Noise and chaos.
Origin: Term derived from Bethlehem, a London institution for people with mental disabilities.

17. CORNY
Common usage: Stupid or comical ideas or behavior.
Origin: Belief that rural people, particularly people from farms, are foolish and uneducated.

18. HOLD DOWN THE FORT
Common usage: Stay behind and manage the affairs of the office or home.
Origin: Protect the forts (military term for fortifying the building) of European American colonists against attacks by Indigenous people.

19. WELSH (VERB)
Common usage: Reneg on an agreement or promise.
Origin: Nursery rhyme “Taffy was a Welshman, Taffy was a thief.” Later extended to refer to English bookies who fled to Wales to avoid paying bettors.

20. LOW PERSON ON THE TOTEM POLE
Common usage: Used by non-Indigenous people to indicate that a person is low in seniority or significance in an organization.
Origin: American Indian culture and positions of clan members on a totem, e.g. Bears on the bottom for strength and Eagles on the top for flight. Balance and equality were stressed.

21. INDIAN SUMMER
Common usage: Unusually warm days in the fall.
Origin: Belief that American Indians engage in deceit and trickery in their dealings with British colonists. Indian Summer is a false summer. Indian is used in several contexts to denote something that is cheap or false, witness Indian-giver and Indian-corn. Also supporting this idea is the British phrase St. Martin’s Summer referring to the same meteorological phenomenon. St. Martin suggests something cheap or false, primarily because dealers in cheap jewelry gathered at the location of London’s Church of St. Martin-de-Grand after it was torn down in the 16th century. St. Martin’s day is 11 November, which often corresponds to the spell of warm weather. (From http://www.wordorigins.org)

22. DUTCH BARGAIN
Common usage: Appears to be a bargain, but is in fact a bad investment.
Origin: Belief that people from Holland are unethical and will attempt to sell something of little worth to unsuspecting customers.

23. DUTCH TREAT
Common usage: Each person pays for her/himself when out for dinner or entertainment.
Origin: Belief that originated in England and perpetuated the stereotype that people from Holland are uncharitable or cheap.

24. REDNECK
Common usage: A white male who has unenlightened, narrow, and racist views.
Origin: Belief that white men who do day labor (sunburned neck) hold prejudiced views and are uninformed about social issues.

25. GYPSY CAB
Common usage: A taxi cab which picks up illegal fares, i.e. is only licensed to respond to calls but illegally searches the streets for passengers.
Origin: Belief that gypsies (Rumanies – Hindu ethnic group of East Indians living in Balkan states and the U.S.) steal and engage in unlawful activities.

26. ON THE WARPATH
Common usage: Description of someone who is engaging in angry, confrontational behavior.
Origin: Reference to American Indians waging war.

SOURCES:
Studio D (1990) Burning Times (video).. National Film Board of Canada.
www.members.aol.com/morelandc/haveorigins.htm
www.wordorigins.org

The author is interested in any dialogue regarding this exercise. Linguists recognize that words may have multiple origins and this could be true for any of the words used in the exercise. In addition, if you have suggestions for expanding this exercise, please contact the author (Sudie Hofmann, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN)