

2015 IIME REPORT

Country [USA]

School [SKA Academy of Art and Design] Teacher [San Teh] grade (9-12) student number (13)

Partner [(JP) Seisa Kokusai High School] Teacher [Mayumi Yoshida]

Subjects, Activities and Times of the lessons

| Subject | Conception of the lesson | Hours |
|-----------|---|-------|
| Landmarks | Learning about U.S. and Japan history through landmarks by visiting and reading about different monuments | 4 |
| IT | Communication through the use of the online forum | 13 |
| Fine Arts | Composing and painting a mural | 7 |
| Fine Arts | Appreciation and reflection of the whole process and work | 2 |

Theme and Message of the mural

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| Theme | Landmarks of America and Japan |
| Message | <p>-We did research about our landmarks, and our partner school did as well. Then, we introduced the history/culture behind various landmarks in our individual countries to each other through pictures and text. We learned a lot and got to know our partner school better.</p> <p>-This mural will feature our national landmarks and will feature the landmarks of the region we are partnered with. The landmarks represent the history and cultures of America and Japan.</p> |



Effects and the Problems

| Effects your students have gained | Points for further improvement |
|---|---|
| <p>The students had the opportunity to work on a group project together. Before, they worked individually, so this was a first time for working with people inside and outside of the classroom. They got to experience what it is like to be on a team and how to communicate effectively through both suggesting and listening. Besides learning and improving their cooperation skills throughout the project, my students researched more about our country and its history through various landmarks. I feel as if their time spent researching has led them to develop more</p> | <p>A point for further improvement for us would be the duration due to schedules. Our students only meet once a week for two hours, so the duration of the project became increasingly shorter. In addition, our schedules and time difference conflicted with our partner school, so we did not have the opportunity to try a video conference. Thus, another point for further improvement would be to schedule find a solution so that we may host a conference call. I believe that these point will lead to better communication between my students and between</p> |

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| of an understanding of our culture. Also, our communication with our partner school helped my students to understand and appreciate other cultures as well! They learned that not everyone is the same, but we should try to learn/understand them because the end result may be new friendships! | our partner school. |
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How has your impression toward your partner country and/or the world changed?

| Change in student's impression | Change in teacher's impression |
|---|---|
| The students learned more about Japan throughout this project, and I have observed that they learned to understand people from different countries even though they may not speak the same language. With that understanding, they appreciated the differences of people's cultures through first-hand accounts with our partner school. For example, our partner school sent us some snacks for our students to enjoy, and inside the package were green tea kit-kats. The students realized that kit-kats are part of the American culture, but Japan has it too. The only difference is that theirs is based off of an Asian flavor – green tea. Thus, I think that this project was very eye opening for my students, as they began to respect others more. | Like my students, I learned to appreciate/understand the differences of people's culture in general through the different symbols and patterns that represent each country. It shows that everyone is different, but we should respect each other because all peoples are on different sides of the world contributing to different histories/cultures which create different landmarks. So in a way, we are all similar in that fact that we are contributing to history, so we should respect it! |

Flow of the Activity

| Content | Month | What you did | Your students attitude/reflection | Subject |
|--------------|------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| Introduction | Sept | Our students made a school introduction video through iMovie and introduced different aspects of the U.S. culture/history. | At first, our students were shy while filming. After we uploaded the video to YouTube, they felt more comfortable and were eager to start communicating with new friends at the partner school! | English |
| Research | Sept - Nov | Our students researched in class and online. In class, we talked about what landmarks should be included and its importance. At home, students did their own research about the landmarks and the history so that they could have a better understanding for their composition sketches. | We discussed in class, and everyone participated in exchanging information and ideas about the landmarks and its history. Even outside of the classroom, they did their own research. They also learned about Japanese landmarks through our partner school and online research. | English History |

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| Composition | Sept - Dec | With their recently found research, the students incorporated culture and landmarks into their preliminary sketches. They knew what they wanted to include which helped them have a basic concept so that they could have a clear idea to present on the mural. | My students were excited to participate in the composition of the mural and sketched a lot of ideas. They incorporated the theme well and even included different artistic aspects like patterns and such. With the help of our partner school, we were able to create a great mural! | Arts English |
| Painting | Feb | We planned out who would do what in accordance to the mural and painted our side. They did a fantastic job! | Although the students had to come in extra days for long hours to finish the mural, they did not complain. They checked to make sure that the details were correct. I could see that they put a lot of effort, as they tried to portray our cultures through landmarks! | Arts |
| Appreciation Reflection | Feb | When we finished the mural, our students took many pictures and posted pictures and experiences on social media. Students also talked to fellow students and parents about what component of the mural they did. Our school put these experiences and pictures in our school's monthly newsletter so that the whole school and community could appreciate and reflect on the IIME project! | My students felt very accomplished and excited to see the final product and reminisce the whole process. They were happy to show their fellow students and parents what they had been working on for the past month. | Arts English |

Aim of the Lessons and Result

Aim: Rank A to C in order you put emphasis on (A: very much/ B: much / C: not so much)

Result: Rank 5 to 1 (5: very effective / 4: effective / 3: so- so / 2: not so effective / 1: not effective at all)

| Expected Effect | Aim | Result | How your students have reached it |
|------------------------------------|-----|--------|---|
| Understanding our own cultures | A | 5 | My students have a better understanding of our own cultures due to the research that we have done in class and online. And from their understanding, they had to portray important aspects of our culture on the mural, which they did fantastically! |
| Understanding the other's cultures | B | 4 | We learned about our partner school's culture through sharing information and videos/pictures, local food/snacks, and from their mural! Although, we wish we could have had a video conference with them to get a better account and learn more! |

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| Communication ability in the class/with partners | B | 4 | In class, students had to communicate with each other in order to delegate parts of the mural to each other. I think it was pretty successful. In relation to our partner school, we communicated through the forum where we shared information about each other through different means like pictures and videos. |
| IT skills | C | 3 | As we first started using the forum, it was a bit confusing and tedious. As time passed, it became easier. We became more proficient at it, but students will need more practice since we did not emphasize IT skills too much. |
| Creating friendship in the class/with partners | B | 4 | We did not get to communicate much with our partner school sadly due to schedules and the time difference. But, I think overall that our collaboration relationship is good and that we have started a path to friendship. I think it was pretty easy for students to communicate and be on friendly terms with our partner schools since we had the same goal. We even exchanged some snacks with the partner school! In class, I feel my students have become better friends since they have had spent a lot more time together. |
| Collaboration in the class/with partners | A | 5 | With our partner school, we were able to collaborate on the subject of the mural through team work and communication. It was a great effort between us and our partner school to come up with the concept layout. They did great! Also, students put a lot of team effort in class through listening and suggesting ideas, as well as being able to delegate different tasks to different people. |
| Attitude in learning | A | 5 | From the start to the end of the project, my students had a positive attitude and were open to any ideas. They stayed excited and very active throughout the whole process. |
| Expression ability | A | 5 | My students were not afraid to voice their opinions as they wanted to do this mural to the best of their abilities. Even with the different styles and interpretations of the students, they were able to cooperate and finalize their ideas to make a great mural! |
| Appreciation ability | B | 4 | I am very proud of our students for reflecting the process and the final product! They were excited to share their experiences and what parts they contributed to with their fellow students and parents. Our students also appreciated the IIME project through social media and through our monthly school newsletter, so we were able to share/reflect with our local community too! |