

2012 IIME REPORT

Country [Canada]

School [Valley View Elementary] Teacher [Suzanne Rea and John Mclaughlin]

grade (6) student number (65)

JP School [Minamitsurumaki Primary School] Teacher [Manabu Abukawa]

Subjects, Activities and Times of the lessons

Subject	Conception of the lesson	Times
Social Studies	Study about history and culture of our country and our partner's country	10
IT	Use the online forum, email, video conferences, internet research	18
Visual Arts	Create a mural (small groups worked on it rotating each class)	12
Fine Arts	Review of other murals, and appreciation and reflection of the whole work	4

Theme and Message of the mural

Theme	The Environment Shaping Culture and Influencing Daily Life and Recreation
Message	Where we live influences how our culture develops, how we live our lives and how we enjoy our environment. We are proud of our own cultures and respect different cultures. We recognize the important role the environment plays and need to look after it for future generations.



Effects and the Problems

Effects your students have gained	Points for further improvement
They have learned how we have so much in common with the kids from our partner school. They have broadened their world view and have made connections to the concept of global citizenship.	It was a little difficult to use the forum at first but gradually we got used. Thank you for your kind guidance. Better and easier student accessibility to the forum would help improve student involvement.

Have you made your activity open in your school or in your local area? How was their reaction or reputation?

PR you did inside/out of your school	Reaction/reputation from around
The project is a big part of our school paper. The mural was constantly visible so classes could follow our progress. The project was written up with pictures in our two local news papers.	The kids are very proud of their hard work! The other students in the school were very interested in what we were doing and constantly asking us questions about the project.

Flow of the Activity

Content	Month	What you did	Your students attitude/reflection	Subject
Introduction	Nov	The students were introduced to the project	They were so excited. They began to ask questions about Japan as well as draw on their own knowledge. They made some comparisons between the two cultures based on their prior knowledge.	Socials
Research	Dec	Used the internet and various sources to study Japan Had a Skype conference	The kids found this interesting. They gained a greater insight into Japanese culture. The kids loved this! They were excited to ask questions and interact. Language was a bit of a challenge.	Socials IT
Composition	Dec	Exchange respective ideas on the mural and decided the design together in our group and corresponded this to partners.	Children had great ideas. ENJOYED EXPRESSING IDEAS AND WORKING COOPERATIVELY.	Socials
Painting	Jan	We studied Japan and other cultures and compared them with ours. A group of students painted everyday.	Worked well on this and ended up with a very pleasing result which communicated their initial ideas effectively.	Socials
Appreciation	Feb	We displayed our mural in the hall and shared it with all the students of our school.	It was great to have a chance to share it and display for other to see.	Fine Art

Aim of the Lessons and Result

Aim	Rank	Mark	How your students have reached it
understanding our own cultures	2	5 (4) 3 2 1	They learned from internet, text, prior knowledge
Understanding the other cultures	2	(5) 4 3 2 1	They used the text, watched videos, conference
communication ability interactively / in English	2	5 (4) 3 2 1	They created small projects in groups
IT skills forum / video conference	5	5 4 (3) 2 1	Email was good. The forum worked well but greater student access is needed. The Skype conference was an excellent face to face opportunity for student interaction though language was a challenge
Creating friendship in the class / with partners	4	5 4 3 (2) 1	We exchanged pictures on the forum but greater student interaction/pairing would have improved the connections. Again the language barrier seemed to be the greatest challenge.
Collaboration in the class / with partners	5	5 4 (3) 2 1	It was challenging to agree on how the mural should be painted, eventually the students came together and were proud of their final result.
Keeping motivation high positive attitude in learning	2	(5) 4 3 2 1	They saw the other side of the mural and wanted to do just as good.
Expression ability in painting	5	5 (4) 3 2 1	This was stressful at times. There was quite a range in abilities.
Appreciation ability reading the painting	3	5 4 (3) 2 1	They put the mural in the hall for the school to see and they understood the influences of the environment.