

2013 IIME REPORT

Country [USA]
 School [Van R. Butler Elementary] Teacher [Constance Rogers] grade (4) student number (21)
 JP School [Kurosuda Elementary School] Teacher [Natsuko Amemiya]

Subjects, Activities and Times of the lessons

Subject	Conception of the lesson	Times
Geography	Mapping countries	5
Math	Distance in miles, time change in hours	2
Social studies	Study of the culture and people of Japan	5

Theme and Message of the mural

Theme	Important parts of our cultures
Message	We are more alike than different. We looked at how both of our cultures are alike, we have pets, play the same games, attend school, have similar dreams for our futures.



Effects and the Problems

Effects your students have gained	Points for further improvement
I believe my students realize that the people in our world are very similar and have the same feelings and aspirations. We discussed how peace can be gained through early friendships, listening and learning from people you do not know.	I think this project is outstanding. I really cannot think of ways to improve this project. It is incredible!

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
I took photos and will send to our local papers. Due to unforeseen circumstances we finished the mural on a late schedule (March 13 th) and I had to ship it that afternoon in order for it to arrive in Japan in time. I did put it up in our main hallway for that one day and the reaction was very positive!	My students and their parents were thrilled with this project. The teachers and staff also were excited about our collaboration. I will send any press after I send in the information to the newspapers.

Flow of the Activity

Content	Month	What you did	Your students attitude/reflection	Subject
Introduction	SEPT	We introduced ourselves with photos and biographies on the JAM forum.	They were very excited to meet the students in Japan through the online forum.	ART
Research	OCT	We studied the world map to discover where on the continent Japan was located.	The students were interested to also discover the distance and time change related to our countries	Geography
Composition	DEC	We began composing our part of the mural when we found out the theme from our partners.	We decided as a group our most popular national sports, foods, and heritage sites. Students sketched out their ideas.	ART
Painting	Feb	We began painting the mural in groups of 4. Kieran is very talented and drew the images on the mural before we painted	The students had a great time painting the mural and worked very well together.	ART
Appreciation	March	We took photos which I will send to the newspaper.	We displayed the mural in our main hallway for one day before I had to mail the mural to Japan and asked as many people in our school that were able to arrange the time to come view the mural.	

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	Yes, our students discussed as a group and had to decide what they felt were the most popular national sports, foods, and the 2 examples of architectural national heritage sites. At first all did not agree so we used internet to research to give clarity for our final choices.
Understanding the other's cultures	A	5	Yes, it was interesting for my students to learn the ways that Japan and U.S.A. are similar. I found a great web site for students for basic research and knowledge on the culture of Japan which we used for our learning.
Communication ability in the class/with partners	A	5	Yes, my students learned the importance of communication and to draw upon classmates with particular gifts in this lesson. We also worked at explaining ourselves and our interest to our partners on the forum.
IT skills	A	5	Yes, we used the internet for research and study on several occasions in this project. We particularly enjoyed the ease of posting comments and photos on the IIME forum.
Creating friendship in the class/with partners	A	5	Yes, I feel we created a bond of friendship but I wish that we could have taken advantage of video conferences, but due to time difference we were not able to do this. We loved the introduction posters our partners sent and have had them on display throughout this study.

Collaboration in the class/with partners	A	5	Yes, collaboration was a key element in the entire lesson. We all offered ideas, through discussion and sketches. Students had to truly work together to decide which ideas worked best and whose talents to use at particular times in the mural.
Attitude in learning	A	5	Yes, My students loved this project and felt special to have been chosen for this partnership. I am the art teacher in a school of 958 students. I see 50 different classes, 10 of which are 4 th grade students. I chose one class of 4 th grade to work on this project so it was a very special honor for these students.
Expression ability	A	5	Yes, my students did an excellent job expressing themselves verbally and visually throughout this activity.
Appreciation ability	C	3	Unfortunately due to a death in my family we were late in completing the mural so we did not have adequate time to appreciate the mural with our school and the community. We did take pictures which I will share with our staff and the community press.

Please submit to jam@artmile.jp . Thank you for your cooperation.