

2018 IIME REPORT

Country/Region [Australia]

School [Hillman Primary School] Teacher [Fiona Nutz] Grade (5-6) Member (15)

JP school [Une Elementary School] Teacher [Yuya Maeda]

Subjects, Activities and Hours of the lessons

Subject	Conception of the lesson	Hours
Japanese language	Understanding Japanese culture, learning new vocabulary	3
Social Sciences	Location and diversity of countries in the Asian region and their relationship with Australia,	4
Social Sciences	Cultural diversity of the world's people.	6

Theme and Message of the mural

Theme	Seasons
Message United thoughts to share with the world	Similarities and differences between the seasons of Ako, Japan and Rockingham, Australia.



Effects and Problems

Effects your students have gained	Points for further improvement
*Leadership skills *Dedication *Empathy for other cultures around the world.	*Would love to do some sort of video link if chosen to do this project again (unfortunately the Dept of Education does not allow us to use Skype).

How has your impression toward your partner's country/region and the world changed?

Changes in the students	Changes in the teachers
*Greater appreciation of Japanese culture *Greater appreciation of their own culture. *Greater understanding of the Rockingham area	*Greater appreciation of other cultures (outside of Australia and Japan) through viewing on the forum. *I enjoyed working with teachers and students in our Sister City and it helped build more ties between our two cities.

Flow of the Activity

Content	Month	What you did	Your students attitude/reflection	Subject
MEET Self-introduction	Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Powerpoint – individual student photos with them introducing their name and hobbies in English and Japanese. *Powerpoint – areas of interest around the school and local area. 	*Got to practice their Japanese language skills as they wrote their introductions in English and romaji	Japanese Language
SHARE Research on the theme	Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Brainstorm by our students on all their ideas. *Students created posters on Rockingham and Australian culture. 	*Greater understanding of our local culture and other cultures that have influenced local events.	Social Sciences
UNITE United message/ Mural design	Nov	*Powerpoint and forum discussion on what it should look like, combining ideas with our partner school.	*Put into focus for the students that our seasons and Japan's seasons are opposite. Thinking of those events we both celebrate and what they might look like in each country.	Social Science
CREATE Mural painting	Feb Mar	*Draw designs on mural, then paint.	*Our students were worried their work wouldn't be up to the standard of our partner school. They were really impressed by the painting of our Japanese school. Our student's confidence grew as they strived to complete their best work. They were very proud of their efforts and showed great enthusiasm and passion.	Art
APPRECIATE Reflection/ Appreciation	Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Presented completed mural at whole school assembly. *Taken to local Council offices. *Powerpoint – explaining the significance of the pictures on our mural. *Made boomerangs to send to our partner school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Proud of their accomplishments. *Learning more about Japanese culture – especially that of children their age. *Appreciative to share their culture with another culture. 	Social Sciences

Effect and evaluation gained through the collaborative learning

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

Expected effect	Evaluation	Scenes / points teachers felt the effects
Understanding your own cultures	5	My students learned to differentiate between our local culture and events that have been influenced by other cultures.
Understanding your partner's cultures	5	My students appreciated looking at the Japanese half of the mural and seeing what we had in common and what was different. They loved the videos and photos on the forum. They were very appreciative of the origami sent as a present to them from our partner school.
Information literacy (research, share)	3	The forum was good to share ideas but maybe we needed to send more videos of our ideas.
Communication ability (interactive exchange)	3	The forum was excellent to use, and a great way to see what other countries around the world were doing. Would love to find a way to do video conferencing if we did this project again. Had trouble with emails going to my junk folder to start with.
Critical thinking (objective, logical views)	4	My students needed to identify which were parts of our culture and which things were recent additions from other cultures – my students struggled with identifying some of these, but it was a great opportunity to look as this and produced some deep and interesting conversations.
Active learning and action	5	Our side of the mural was very much student-led with just a little direction from me. Students were actively involved in all stages and were willing to do their own research outside of school to contribute to our discussions.
Collaboration (in the class, with partners)	4	Excellent feedback between the two schools on the forum. My students were from different classes and willingly gave up their lunch times to work on this project with other students.
Expression ability (in words, in pictures)	4	Students were happy to take advice and feedback from myself and other students to adjust their pictures if they didn't think convey the meaning we wanted.
Appreciation ability (the mural, the whole collaborative learning)	5	Students appreciated displaying the mural to the whole school, parents and the local community. They are looking forward to hearing what our partner school thought of our efforts.