

REPORT Artmile International Collaborative Learning 2019

Country/Region [Romania]

School [Liceul de Arte Plastice Timișoara] Teacher [Anca Gyemant] Grade (5, 6, 7, 9) Members (46)

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Subjects, Activities and Hours of the lessons

Subject	Conception of the lesson	Hours
Visual Arts	Discussions, documentation, sharing of knowledge, drawing and painting,	35

Theme and Message of the mural

Theme	Love our nature, love our Earth, love ourselves!
Message United thoughts to share with the world	The message on our mural is “Love our nature, love our Earth, love ourselves!” We developed with the students a work whose theme concerns our important connection as a species with all the other living organisms on Earth. The themes that we explored in the work included: climate change, the loss of biodiversity, pollution and also the love that we share for nature in both our countries.





Effects and Problems

Effects your students have gained	Points for further improvement
The students gained knowledge about the climate emergency we are facing today. They practiced researching the topic, discussing it, sharing information in our internal whatsapp group and on the forum, transforming what they have learned in visual images, working as a team.	What would necessitate an improvement would be the rendering of an even more clear message about the fact that the present paradigm of global capitalism, that sees profit more important than life, should be changed. That the future of life on Earth depends on changing this paradigm.

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

Changes in the students	Changes in the teachers
The students are very interested in the Japanese culture and it was good for them to have a more personal connection through the messages they have exchanged with their Japanese colleagues. Also, during the entire project, the students researched about the climate emergency, a condition that it is common to us all, on the entire planet.	The most important conclusion of the project consisted in the renewed knowledge that no matter how different our contexts and cultures are, we are sharing the same global condition: the essential threat that global capitalism poses to the life on Earth and the importance of education of the future generations in challenging this threat.

Flow of the Activity

Content	Month	What you did	Your students attitude/reflection	Subject
MEET Self-introduction	June Oct.	The students wrote a few things about themselves and attached some drawings and photos. In October we met on Skype.	My students were really happy to see the photos, drawings and text of their Japanese colleagues. Also, they were very excited for the Skype meeting.	Visual Art
SHARE Research on the theme	Sept. Oct.	We had discussions and research on the topic of climate emergency. The kids researched what are the endangered species in our country.	This topic is important for us and our students were really involved in the discussions. In the time of our research, some of the kids participated also in the Fridays for Future activities and protests too and they discussed and drew about the urgent and critical times that we are living today.	Visual Art
UNITE Message of united thoughts	Oct.	Our partners proposed the message of our mural and we very happily agreed to it.	We discussed the meanings of the message and we concluded that it is very important to think of our species as an integral part of nature. We discussed about speciesism and the importance of a change in the paradigm that sees Man as the master of nature instead of seeing humanity as part of nature itself.	Visual Art

CREATE Mural painting	Jan.	We have received the mural painted by our partners and we painted the other half of it.	The kids were very happy to open the package and see the painting that their Japanese colleagues did. We prepared for the mural by researching what are the endangered species in our country and also which animals would be the most representative for our area.	Visual Art
APPRECIATE Reflection/ Appreciation	Feb.	We looked at the finished mural and had a discussion.	We concluded that what we like most in the mural is the fact that in both halves of it, it is made clear that humans are intrinsically part of nature, that we are connected to all the other species on Earth and we need to constantly remember the importance of this connection in these times when the future of life on our planet is in danger.	Visual Art

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	The project was a good opportunity to discuss about the ecological challenges that our country faces: deforestation, pollution, livestock farming, etc.
Understanding your partner's cultures	5	Getting in touch with our Japan partners was a good occasion to see how we are sharing the same global challenges.
Information literacy (research, share)	5	The project involved a lot of research for the students and a lot of discussing of the topic of endangered species, in Romania and globally.
Communication ability (interactive exchange)	5	We set up an whatsapp group where the Romanian students could exchange the information they have found. Also we had face to face meetings to discuss. All of these were a good occasion to practice information dissemination abilities.
Critical thinking (objective, logical views)	5	We discussed deeply about the causes of the climate emergency. We learned and practiced how to see the connections between facts that seem unrelated, but that are actually the result of the same global condition- the exploitation of nature and of the majority of humans for the benefit of the few.
Active learning and action	5	The entire project was an active learning experience. Hopefully, the students learned that art can be a form of activism and that in the future they would develop further their abilities in this sense
Collaboration (in the class, with partners)	5	The students learned a lot about collaborative work in this project, about taking decisions together, about sharing responsibilities, about communicating the results of their work.
Expression ability (in words, in pictures)	5	The students were very interested in painting collaboratively the large surface of the mural. It was very interesting for them to see the work of the Japanese students and to create a visual dialogue in the ways they continued the mural.
Appreciation ability (the mural, the whole collaborative learning)	5	In discussing the final results, the students expressed enthusiastically their opinions about the entire experience of the project as a very positive learning situation.