

Starter Activities

Some suggestions for activities that will enable pupils in the partner schools to exchange information and learn more about each other

Who am I?

Pupils can complete writing frames, such as:

The name I like to be called is _____. Four words which describe me are _____. Last Saturday I _____. I like being a boy/girl because _____. Things that make me feel good are _____. When I am an adult I will _____. The most beautiful place I can imagine is _____. If a boy/girl from another country came to visit I would take them to _____ because _____. The best thing about my neighbourhood is _____. One thing I would like to see changed where I live is _____. To help improve my area I could _____. To make the world a better place, I think adults could _____. If I had three wishes – one for myself, one for my country and one for the world – I would wish _____.

Exchange this information with the partner school and compare the responses.

A country web

Draw a web of your ideas about your partner country. Exchange these with your partner school and ask them to comment on your ideas. Do they think you have an accurate picture of their country? What have you missed out?

Based on an activity in *Global Express*, Development Education Project

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A Passport for Rights

Pupils prepare their own 'passport'. This will include their name, picture and date of birth.

Then, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights they can add:

- When and where were you born? (Article 1: No one has the right to take away any of the rights in this declaration)
- Give three examples of ways in which girls and boys are not always treated equally (Article 1: Everyone is free and we should all be treated in the same way)
- Write down three ways in which you are different from a friend of yours or someone in your class (Article 2: Everyone is equal despite differences in skin colour, sex, religion and language)
- What countries have you visited? (Article 13: Everyone has a right to travel within a country and to leave and return to their own country)
- What is your nationality? (Article 15: Everyone has the right to belong to a country) Do you have a religion? (Article 18: Everyone has the right to practise and observe all aspects of their own religion) In which year will you be able to vote? (Article 21: Everyone has the right to take part in choosing the government of their own country)
- What work (not school work) have you done, who for, and did you receive a fair wage? (Article 23: Everyone has the right to work for a fair wage)
- When did you last go to the doctor? Have you been to hospital? (Article 25: Everyone has the right to medical care)
- Describe their culture or customs (Article 27: Everyone has a right to celebrate their culture and customs)

Exchange and compare the responses. What similarities and differences are there between the schools?

Based on an activity in *Our World, Our Rights*, Amnesty International 2004

The 10/10/10 strategy: starting a link

At the beginning, the students are only told the name of the country or community they will be linking with and the language they speak. They should come up with:

- 10 questions they would like to ask the pupils in their partner school about themselves
- 10 points of information about themselves that they would like the pupils in the partner school to know about them, and
- 10 rights which they feel that every child should have

For this activity the class should be divided into groups.

Each group decides on 10 questions.

Each group is then asked in turn to contribute one question, with the other groups agreeing or not as to whether the question should go in the first list of 10 questions. Any not agreed are added to a second list to be sent a later date.

The list of 10 agreed questions is then sent to the partner school.

The other lists are developed in the same way.

Note: the second stage – 10 points of information – should be completed before you receive any questions or information from your partner school.

Activity provided by HEC, Tower Hamlets

Ask the pupils to draw what they think the place where their partner school is looks like. They can draw what they think the school itself is like or the area it is in. These can then be compared with photos and looked at further along in the life of the partnership.

For other activities and resources contact your local Development Education Centre (contact details at www.dea.org.uk) or visit www.globaldimension.org.uk or www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/teachers/catalogue.htm.