



Our Culture in a Box

AN ASL TWINS PROJECT PLAN

General Overview

This TWINS project aims to help students to understand the culture and identity of their TWIN school's country. Each school sends a 'box of culture' to their partner school containing 10 items which the students feel best represent their country.

Method

- The TWINS Coordinators of both schools agree to share this project and set a deadline for its completion.
- This project can be done by a class or a group of students.
- Ask the children to collect 10 items that they think would best describe and represent their country. For monuments and expensive items postcards, cut out pictures, photos or models can be used. Items might include a symbol, a famous building or monument, a food item, a coin or stamp, clothing, a famous painting, an anthem, a saying or a piece of music, a handicraft, an event, a figurine, transport, a person or an animal etc.....
- Students can also make some useful information cards which will help the students in the partner school understand the items. Do's and don't cards would also help the students to know what to say or how to act when they see or use or eat the item! Useful reference items such as maps and websites can also be included.
- Students could also create a quiz and try to guess what will arrive in their TWIN schools culture box. How many did they guess correctly? Did they know what the items were and how to treat them correctly? What did they expect and what was a surprise?
- Photograph the box arriving and being opened. The students should discuss each item as above and look at the similarities and differences. Were the children's expectations accurate? Were there any surprises?
- If the schools have internet facility and webcam a session can be scheduled where the children can openly discuss their thoughts about the items sent and received.
- Off shoot lessons could include writing an essay about the most surprising item or creating a presentation about the partner schools country.
- Make a display of the box and items received.

What will the students learn?

- by choosing the items to put in the box the students will learn 'how others see them'
- by explaining their choices to their partner school they will learn 'how they see themselves'
- more about their own culture and country
- more about the culture and country of their TWINS school
- teamwork

Summary

This TWINS project is a fun way for students to explore the similarities and differences between the culture and countries of the TWIN schools.

This project has been adapted from a British Council project plan found on the Global Gateway website. Visit www.globalgateway.org.uk or www.adoptsrilanka.com to check out more exciting project plans!