

2012 IIME REPORT

Country [United States]

School [Scales Mound Junior] Teacher [Karen Kelly] grade (8) student number (15)

JP School [Ochiai Junior High School] Teacher [Yukiko Yamaguchi]

Subjects, Activities and Times of the lessons

Subject	Conception of the lesson	Times
Social Studies	Geography of Japan	Chapter from text
Social Studies	History of Japan	Chapter from text
Social Studies	Japan Today – cultural understanding	1 weeks

Theme and Message of the mural

Theme	Landscape and symbols of the United States
Message	Pride in our country, diverse landscape, symbols representing our country, friendship



Effects and the Problems

Effects your students have gained	Points for further improvement
The students realized teens another country are exactly like them. They like to play video games, listen to music, and text message friends. They also gained confidence in themselves by completing the mural and receiving awesome praise from their Japanese partners.	

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
Local newspaper wrote a article about the students and the program, posted pictures to my school web page and to facebook. The mural hung in the hall for public viewing during school and evening activities for 2 weeks. Also wrote an article for the school newsletter.	We have received many very positive comments from other students, staff, and community members. A grandmother stopped me in a store to tell me how wonderful the project was and how much her grandson enjoyed the activity.

Flow of the Activity

Content	Month	What you did	Your students attitude/reflection	Subject
Introduction	September	Took pictures of students and they wrote short introductions to post on the message board to our partner school. In December we sent hand made greeting cards	Students were excited, but also nervous about what the other students would think of them	Social Studies
Research	October	Taught textbook chapters on geography, history, and Japan today. Also shared my travel experiences in Japan (2009)	Students were very interested and amazed	Social Studies
Composition	October November	We sent messages about how to divide the mural. Started drawing ideas. But did not finalize ideas until the mural arrived.	Students worked very hard, they were excited but afraid their drawings would not be good. They took a long time to get the drawing sketched on the mural canvas	Social Studies and after school
Painting	December January	Students worked to together painting. The art teacher joined the class to teach them different painting techniques	They enjoyed the painting, worked very hard to make the painting "perfect", were very excited with finished mural and very proud	Social Studies and after school
Appreciation	January February	The completed mural hung in the hallway for students, teachers, and community to see. We included post cards made by the students of their favorite place in the United States with an explanation of the place	We were sad to mail the mural back to our partner school. We were excited to share our work but sad we would not have it hanging in our school any more. We loved the finished mural	Social Studies and after school

Aim of the Lessons and Result

Aim	Rank	Mark	How your students have reached it
understanding our own cultures	5	⑤ 4 3 2 1	Working together to develop a plan and deciding on important symbols of the United States
Understanding the other cultures	1	⑤ 4 3 2 1	Sharing information in the forum site, pictures, cards
communication ability interactively / in English	3	5 4 ③ 2 1	Sometimes the students needed a push to write more then short notes, they seemed a little shy
IT skills forum / video conference	7	5 ④ 3 2 1	Forum posts were shared in class
Creating friendship in the class / with partners	4	5 ④ 3 2 1	By posting to forum site and sending cards
Collaboration in the class / with partners	2	⑤ 4 3 2 1	Forum posts were shared in class and posting to forum
Keeping motivation high positive attitude in learning	9	5 4 ③ 2 1	Working together after school and making it a social gathering
Expression ability in painting	6	5 ④ 3 2 1	Encouraging students, working closely with them, and instruction from the art teacher
Appreciation ability reading the painting	8	⑤ 4 3 2 1	Talking about the meaning of the painting