

Going Global – The New Seven Wonders of the World

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As a student growing up in Chicago in the 1950's, my family did not travel. The sum total of what I remember about geography is that Brazil is a country in South America that exports rubber. As an adult, I have had the opportunity to travel to five of the seven continents, so far, and have been awed by the natural beauty, art, architecture, music, cuisine and cultural traditions of the many countries in which I immersed myself. Experiential learning is a truly meaningful way to create understanding and lasting memories. I want my students to not only recite facts about our world, but also develop an appreciation of its beauty and know that although cultures have differences, we also have many similarities.

As “globe travelers”, all kindergarten through fifth grade physical education classes participate in an integrated thematic approach to social studies. Each fall the school year begins with the “Big Idea – the Continents”. The physical education/social studies collaboration enhances learning and teaches to all the multiple intelligences. This beginning survey of the continents is then enhanced by further study in the classroom in each grade level, and lasts for three weeks.

Upon entering the gym, students see that it is transformed into stations representing the seven continents. Each station is decorated with greetings, natural wonders, animals and habitats, art and architecture. Students perform a physical challenge task at each continent.

The posters of the continents, animals, art, artifacts are obtained from local travel agents, zoos, our districts art department and Multicultural Center. I also ask students to bring in pictures of their travels and share experiences with their fellow explores. I find that everyone that I have asked to help has been extremely willing to share. I invite the community in to see the continents and have my students serve as travel guides for the evening. What I have outlined in the following lesson plan has worked well for us and each year students gain a more in depth appreciation of our planet. It is my hope that these ideas may not only be used but also and expanded in your schools.

Lesson Outline

Upon entering, students are asked to sing and body map the seven continents to the tune of “Are You Sleeping?” This idea thanks to Jean Blaydes Madigan.

North America – left hand; Europe – nose; Asia - right hand; Africa – waist;
South America – left knee; Australia – right knee; Antarctica – walk feet like penguin

Students scatter around the room and follow teacher in a see/do Tai Chi warm-up as if we had been transported to Asia. Students are then directed to look around at the seven continent stations and observe the pictures and posters. Students are divided into groups and each group goes to a continent station. Groups perform tasks at each station while songs of the continents play (about 2-3 minutes) and rotate at the end of each song. As they travel to each station, students will be able to:

- Greet each other in the language of one of the countries of the continent
- Name one natural landmark
- Identify native animals and their habitat
- Name a famous architectural landmark
- Sing a song or perform a dance of a country
- Perform a physical challenge
- Listen to the multicultural music playing in the gym and change continents at the end of each song

ASIA

PICTURES AND POSTERS ON THE WALL:

Greetings

Ni Hao – China
Konichiwa – Japan
Annyona ha shimnikka – Korea

Natural wonders

Mt. Fuji, Himalayan Mountains, Mt. Everest, Yangtze River

Animals and habitat

Panda Bears, Lowland Gorilla, Orangutan, Black Panther, Jungle Fowl
Asiatic Black Bear

Art and Architecture

Great Wall of China, Pagoda, Buda

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CHALLENGES

Dragon dance, Juggle scarves, Create a ribbon routine, Chinese Jump Rope, Yo Yo.

AFRICA

PICTURES AND POSTERS ON THE WALL

Greeting

Jambo – Kenya; Salaam aleikum – Morocco; Sannu – Nigeria; Bonjour- Senegal;
Sawubona – Swaziland; Salama -Madagascar

Natural wonders

Mt Kilimanjaro, Victoria Falls, The Nile River, Sahara Desert

Animals and habitat

African Wild Dog, Giraffe, Elephant, Zebra, Ostrich, Okapi, African lion.
Addax, Hippopotamus, Rhinoceroses, Camel

Art and Architecture

Pyramids, Abu Simbel Temple

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CHALLENGES

Build Partner Pyramids, Pharaohs Challenge, Marbles.

EUROPE

PICTURES AND POSTERS ON THE WALL**Greetings**

Buon Giorno – Italy
Bon Jour – France
Guten Tag – Germany
God dag – Sweden

Natural wonders

The Alps, The Pyrenees, The Rhine, Rhone, and Arno Rivers

Animals and habitat

Mountain Goat, Cow, Wild Boar, Fox, Rabbit, Pheasant, Cicada

Art and Architecture

The Colosseum, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame,
Big Ben, Windsor Castle, Monet's Water Lillies,

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CHALLENGES

Step Aerobics to climb the 704 Eiffel tower steps
Soccer Juggle, Quoits (Ring Toss), Hopscotch, Pelele (Fling It).

NORTH AMERICA

PICTURES AND POSTERS ON THE WALL**Greetings**

Hi, Hello, Howdy, Hi ya all – USA
Bon Jour, Hello – Canada
Hola – Mexico

Natural wonders

Northern Lights, Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, Rocky Mountains, Paricutin

Animals and habitat

California Sea Lion, Atlantic Dolphin, Alligator, Trumpeter Swan, Bald Eagle, Owl
Beaver, River otter, Wolf, Bison, Dragonfly, Brown Bear, Harp Seal, Canadian
Goose, Walrus, Atlantic Puffin, Armadillo

Art and Architecture

Golden Gate Bridge, Sears Tower, Seattle Needle, Frank Lloyd Wright Home and
Studio, Ferris wheel, Georgia O'Keefe's Blue Morning Glories

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CHALLENGES

Cartwheel to celebrate the Ferris Wheel, built in 1893 to celebrate the Chicago World's Fair, Rolling Hoops, Hula Hoop, Bilboquet (Scoop and Ball).

AUSTRALIA

PICTURES AND POSTERS ON THE WALL

Greeting

Good day mate!

Natural wonders

Great Barrier Reef, Uluru, The Olgas

Animals and habitat

Kangaroo, Koala, Emu, Crocodile, Wombat, Cassowary, Kookaburra, Tasmanian Devil, Dingo, Green Tree Frog, Clownfish

Art and Architecture

Sydney Bridge, Sydney Opera House, Aborigines songlines

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CHALLENGES

Sit on Hop ball and bounce like a Kangaroo, Paddle on scooters around the Great Barrier Reef, Follow the Leader.

SOUTH AMERICA

PICTURES AND POSTERS ON THE WALL

Greetings

Bom Dia – Brazil

Hola – Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, Venezuela, Columbia

Natural wonders

Angel Falls, Iguassu Falls

Animals and habitat

Spider Monkey, Tow toed Sloth, Anaconda, Goliath Spider, Toucan, Hummingbird, Fishing Bat

Art and Architecture

Machu Picchu, the Inca City, Noai Statues

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CHALLENGES

Swing on rope over Anaconda pit, Navigate the Goliath Spider Web by going over and under, Toss the Spider into the web.

ANTARCTICA

PICTURES AND POSTERS ON THE WALL

Greetings

Use many languages since visiting scientists travel from all parts of the world

Natural wonders

Icebergs

Animals and habitat

Emperor Penguin, Adelie Penguin, Weddell Seal, Leopard Seal, Killer Whale

Architecture

Picture of science station

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CHALLENGES

Walk on balance beam as if it were an iceberg, walk on partner skis

Upon completing the seven stations, students gather together in a group and are asked to reflect upon on thing that makes each continent unique and one thing that it shares with all the others.

Reflection of Class

Students are then directed to say “Ciao” to each other and the second graders are informed that they will be going on an epicurean adventure to Italy!

Another fun idea is to visit the New 7 Wonders website. It provides information and pictures of the 21 candidates from around the world. Until July 7, 2007 everyone could vote for their favorite. Now, the votes are in and the Great Wall of China was the number one vote getter. And until 11-11-11, we can vote for the New Natural Wonders of the world.