

Mars Habitation

LESSON 13: CULTURE ON EARTH AND MARS



Objectives:

- Students will use the internet to explore the cultures of different world communities.
- Students will consider what the culture of the new Mars community might be like.

Time: 2 hours

Materials:

- Paper/Notepads
- Pencils
- Printer
- Printer paper
- Map of the World: http://go.hrw.com/atlas/norm_ htm/world.htm

Prepare:

Research websites that have cultural information (Music, Language, Art, Food and Clothing) for different parts of the world.

<http://guide.culturecrossing.net/>

Activity (step by step)

STEP 1: Recap from Last Session

1. Review your community name and flag.
2. Review that you now have a community name, flag and mission statement

STEP 2: Discussion/Intro activity

1. Discuss the importance of “culture” to a community’s identity. Investigate the elements that define a community’s culture.
 - a. *Guiding Questions:*
 - i. What kinds of things make up the “culture” of a community?” Examples: music, art, language, clothing, etc. . . . elicit this list from students.
 - ii. Who can name some of the cultural elements of other parts of the world? Examples:
 1. In Mexico they speak Spanish and eat certain foods. . .
 2. In Iran many women wear burkas to cover their heads and face.
2. Ask students to list some places in the world that they would like to know more about.
3. Write these somewhere where all can see.

STEP 3: Activity:

1. Explain that today students are going to investigate cultures in other parts of the world in order to decide what they want their Mars culture to be like.
2. Have students break into five groups (this might be all single students, or all pairs, or some pairs and some individuals depending on the size of your group)
3. Allow each group to choose music, language, art, food or clothing so that every element is represented.
4. Each group should then choose a location from the discussion time.
5. Advise students to spend some time using the internet to research their cultural element for a particular location. Direct students to predetermined websites, or help them to do searches in Google/Yahoo.

6. Once students have found some information, have them write on a large piece of paper a summary of what they learned. If you are able to print pictures include those as well.
7. Have each group share and discuss the differences. Also, what might the other cultural elements be like for each location?

STEP 4: Recap

1. Explain that for the next few sessions students will be designing the Language, Food, Clothing, and Music for their martian community.

STEP 5: Writing

Remember that you can write your book however you want. These writing lessons are to provide structure if they students do not know where to start.

- If you are writing a narrative think about how culture is an expression of who we are. We express it through music, art, fashion, etc. It says things we cannot say just with words. Choose one or more aspects of culture – Art, Music, Rituals, write and draw what you see in your mind as representing Mars culture. Be imaginative. Today's exercise is about feeling.
- If you are writing letters, Tell your Earth pen pal about your favorite song, or picture. Are you the artist/musician? Did you write/draw it yourself? What were you trying to convey? Perhaps you are missing some aspect of culture from Earth – a favorite song, perhaps. What is it? What does it remind you of? Does it make you happy or sad about life on Mars? Is it a new mars tradition you want to share with your friend on Earth? Explain its meaning.
- If you are writing an ABC book think about using the letters from the title of lesson – like Culture. Perhaps you would prefer to use the letter A for art, or S for singing which are part of culture. Or maybe you are missing something from your culture on Earth – try using the first letter of the name of a singer.