International Education Week • November 16-20, 2020

International Education Week (IEW) is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of cultural learning, international education, and exchange worldwide. IEW is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES for your school and classroom

1. Incorporate information on a country or culture into your regular lesson plan, even if you don’t teach social studies.

2. Explore international aspects of the arts music, film, theatre, visual arts, literature, dance by creating, performing, or studying artworks with an international component. This could include showing a foreign film in class.

3. Adopt a school in a developing country and donate school supplies, reference materials, and other items. Contact acesinternational@aces.org for our list of school partnership opportunities.

4. Trade questions and answers with students from another country through the Internet, pen pal clubs, or a Digital Video Conference. Contact us at acesinternational@aces.org for a connection.

5. Encourage cultural understanding for students using the online resource One World: Connecting Communities, Cultures, and Classrooms. Sponsored by the National Football League and Scholastic Inc., this unique education resource designed for teachers. The free, web based program may be downloaded here.

6. Ask students to write essays on countries they would like to visit and why they chose those countries.

7. Feature local international experts as speakers: Fulbright Students and Scholars, former diplomats or Peace Corps volunteers, business leaders working for multinational corporations, or journalists.

8. Participate in a Model UN activity.

9. Assign students to produce a video or website about their cross-cultural experiences. The video could explore issues of cultural idiosyncrasies, stereotypes, and/or their own experiences in another culture.
RESOURCES for Your Learning Community

Contact acesinternational@aces.org for more international learning resources and experiences.

- Embassy Information: Many U.S. and foreign embassies have resources on their web sites. For a list of U.S. embassies worldwide, visit http://usembassy.state.gov. For a list of foreign embassies in Washington, DC, visit http://www.embassy.org/embassies.

- Opportunities on U.S. Higher Education: EducationUSA offers various resources on U.S. higher education, supports overseas advising centers, and collaborates with U.S. educational organizations to strengthen international exchange.

- National Geographic Xpeditions: National Geographic Xpeditions is home to the U.S. National Geography Standards and to thousands of ideas, tools, and interactive adventures that bring them to life. Here you will find lesson plans, atlas maps, and various activities to help in planning lessons and other activities.

- World Wise Schools: Coverdell World Wise Schools, a domestic program of the Peace Corps, has helped more than 3 million U.S. students communicate directly with Peace Corps Volunteers all over the world. The World Wise Schools website offers free, dynamic crosscultural classroom materials, literature, videos, stories, and lessons to enrich K–12 students, such as the Global Issues: Working With Communities module and the award winning educational game Peace Corps Challenge.

- TeachUNICEF: TeachUNICEF is a portfolio of free global education resources. Resources cover grades PK12, are interdisciplinary (social studies, science, math, English/language arts, foreign/world languages), and align with standards. The lesson plans, stories, and multimedia cover topics ranging from the Millennium Development Goals to Water and Sanitation.

- Careers with the US Department of State: http://www.state.gov/careers/


- US Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs: https://eca.state.gov/

- Find a Sister City in your region and carry out a joint activity during IEW.

- Build Classroom-to-Classroom connection between your local schools and a school overseas via the Internet. Contact acesinternational@aces.org for a connection.

- Work with your local children’s museum or regional institution to offer a One-Day Foreign Language and Cultural Workshop to students.

ACES International Education provides innovative services that advance multicultural and multinational learning through campus internationalization. We prioritize global-to-local and local-to-global engagement for learning communities and institutions that seeking greater opportunities for their students, staff, and stakeholders. Contact the ACES International Team at acesinternational@aces.org for more information about our programs, services, and projects. Robust, Real-World, Relevant Programming: www.aces.org/ai