

## **Continent Study Project**

This planner consists of a one page planning guide teachers or programs could use as a beginning point for an intensive study of a region or continent.

Conference participants were asked to brainstorm potential ideas for each continent during the session and their ideas are included here. As participants may not have had time to complete all areas, there are some blanks. You can fill those in with your own brainstorming ideas!

## **Continent Study Planner**

As you brainstorm and document ideas, make sure to specify intended age range of noted activities. For example, within geography it may be appropriate for younger children to be able to master countries within the continent while older students could learn capitals or flags. Many things could be all ages!

### **Content areas:**

Geography

Countries, cities, landmarks, land formations, biomes

History / Social Studies

Cultures, food, clothing, religions, games, customs, government, economy, etc.

Language Arts

Literature by author from the area, literature or non-fiction about the area

Native language(s)

Science

Flora & fauna

climate

Math

Building, planning, dimensions, etc.

Unique math practices example: Quipu (stored numbers), abacus

Visual / Performing Arts

Artists and performers, traditional crafts, art forms, traditional music / dance

### **Resources**

Local experts, museums,

Speakers and field trips

### **Exhibition Area**

#### **Structures**

Homes, landmarks, land formations

#### **Activities**

Hands-on, appropriate for a variety of age groups

#### **Critical Incident**

Problem to be solved

## **Continent Study Participant Brainstorming: South America**

### **Content areas:**

Geography

Andes Mountains, Amazon Basin, plateaus

History / Social Studies

Incas, Aztecs, Mayans, Indigenous peoples

Traditional ceremonies, markets, modern day traditions, dress

Language Arts

Origin stories, myths, oral traditions

Science

Environmental issues, terrace farming, medicines

Math

Architecture, GIS imagery

Visual / Performing Arts

### **Resources**

#### **Exhibition Area**

##### **Structures**

Machu Picchu, Christ the Redeemer statue

##### **Activities**

Weaving, farming

##### **Critical Incident**

Clear-cutting forests

## **Continent Study Participant Brainstorming: Australia & Antarctica**

### Geography

Detail locations and contrast the continents

### History / Social Studies

Antarctica- what countries have base stations? When founded? Mission?

### Language Arts

Write a daily routine about person working in Antarctica

### Science

Study animals and plants

### Math

Statistics of animals and plants, learn to create info-graphics

### Visual / Performing Arts

Create animals that are from the area using fabrics, paint, etc.

## **Resources**

Videos, books, find people from the continent to come give talks to students

## **Exhibition Area**

### **Structures**

Build giant iceberg, sledge

## **Activities**

Create models of continents showing animals and plants

## **Critical Incident**

Real example: ship Piloto Pardo lead the rescue of Ernest Shackleton's crew after they were lodged in the Antarctic ice floe in 1915. How did they do this?

## **Continent Study Participant Brainstorming: Asia**

### **Content areas:**

Geography

Silk Road

Lower / Primary school: map

Upper / Middle school: geopolitical boundaries

History / Social Studies

Gunpowder, icecream, printing press, Buddhism, colonialism, neo-colonialism,  
Silk Road

Language Arts

Where The Mountain Meets The Moon

The Analects

Ed Young's picture book

Science

pollution

Math

abacus

Visual / Performing Arts

Dance, pottery

### **Resources**

Use technology to communicate

### **Exhibition Area**

#### **Structures**

Yurt, Taipei, 101, Burj Khalifa

### **Activities**

Making dumplings, using chopsticks, pottery making, sports & games

### **Critical Incident**

Kashmir

Pollution

South China Sea

ISIS

Population

Afghanistan

## **Continent Study Participant Brainstorming: Africa**

### **Content areas:**

Geography

Sahara Desert, the Savannah

History / Social Studies

First humans, ancient cultures, Western intervention and 'conquests'

Language Arts

Poetry describing unique landscapes

Essays in Social Studies and History

Science

Ecosystems

Impacts of global warming

Math

Economy, population, currencies, exchange rates

Visual / Performing Arts

Batik, masks, drums, jewelry

### **Resources**

Local librarians, universities, school community, local cultural clubs and associations

### **Exhibition Area**

#### **Structures**

Traditional homes, old vs new architecture

#### **Activities**

Dance, music, cooking, making clothes

#### **Critical Incident**

Water availability and distribution

Protecting endangered species

## **Continent Study Participant Brainstorming: Europe**

### **Content areas:**

Geography  
Mountains

History / Social Studies

Interesting holidays- Tomatina, Las Fallas, Holy Week (Spain)

Switzerland has 3 different languages depending upon proximity to other nations

Politics- Cataluna / Spain relations

“Gladiator School”

Food comparisons eg. Roman pizza vs American pizza

Language Arts

Chastuskas- Russian poetry

Cervantes, Don Quixote

Science

Math

Changes and influences in architecture- Gothic, Arabic, Spanish, Christian, etc.

Visual / Performing Arts

Dance- Flamenco, Greek, etc. painted Russian dolls (matryoshka)

### **Resources**

#### **Exhibition Area Structures**

#### **Activities**

Dancing, cooking, food tasting

#### **Critical Incident**

Use of Euro, debt crisis in one EU country

## **Continent Study Participant Brainstorming:**

### **North America**

(completed by presenting school)

#### **Content areas:**

Geography- include Central America and Caribbean Islands

Land formations- pre-school & lower elementary

Capitals- upper elementary and MS

Flags

History / Social Studies

Hopewell people (local to Central Ohio)

Canada

Westward Expansion- Oregon Trail

Aztec

Garifuna people (Central America)

Indigenous cultures in Alaska

Scrapbook of research to display

Research papers

Language Arts

Dancing In The Rain Lynn Joseph

Gone To Drift Diana McCauley

Streams To The River, River To The Sea Scott O'Dell

Sees Behind Trees Michael Dorris

Native languages of regions, dialects, amalgamated languages

Science

Hurricanes in Caribbean- current events!

What are hurricanes? How different from typhoons or monsoons?

Weather patterns

Archeology

Math

Currencies and exchanges

Industry / economy of Caribbean

Visual / Performing Arts

Naif painting, calabash bowls, weaving, line dancing, square dancing, ragtime music, bluegrass music, Louis Comfort Tiffany (stained glass),

Frank Lloyd Wright



**Resources**

The Newark Earthworks Center, Ohio History Connection, Flint Ridge, Brad Lepper (archeologist), Denison professors, OSU professors

**Exhibition Area****Structures**

Earthwork mounds, traditional Garifuna home, Conestoga wagon, commercial and 'beach' area

**Activities**

Relax on the "beach"

Tour earthwork, learn about how Hopewell built them, flint napping, hide scraping, weaving, early American toys, make rag dolls, whirlygigs, tour the museum in Caribbean, learn about calabash bowls, learn about Garifuna culture, basket making

**Critical Incident**

Hurricane in Caribbean, displacement of residents (middle school students) and destruction of their island area.