

Week 10

Topic: Places - My Home, My School, etc.

Guiding Questions:

What are the defining attributes of my home/school?

How do these attributes shape my local culture?

How do the “places” in my community differ from “places” around the world?

If I could change one thing about my home/school, what would it be?

Goals:

- I. To explore, in a new and more profound way, the places that define a culture
- II. To learn how these places vary between cultures
- III. To challenge the local systems and structures that are integral to a culture’s “places”, using learned cultural awareness to inform constructive criticism

Activities:

1. Tour Guide: Have students film each other giving guided tours of important “places” in their communities. These “places” might include one’s school, home, restaurants, backyard, etc. Share these tours with classrooms around the world, and in exchange, see what places look like in another culture. Even if video technology is not available, tours are a great way for students to consider proudly, and think critically, about the places that they take for granted.
2. A Day In The Life: Give a responsible student (or multiple) a video camera to take home for several days. Have them record “A Day in the Life”, introducing their families and demonstrating their daily routines. Encourage the students to film their walk to school, their mealtimes, their freetimes, and any places that they go to along the way. Videos can be compiled and edited by the teacher and shared with the whole class at the end of the unit.
3. My Dream House/School: Have students, individually or in teams, consider a specific place in their community. Then, with poster paper and markers, have them design, in specific details, what their dream version of that place would be like. If they could go to

any school in the world, what would that school look like? What would they do each day? Who would be there? This is a great activity to do after discussing the places of another culture. Encourage students to consider aspects of their homes, schools, etc. critically, and to consider the possible benefits of the places in other cultures.

4. Classrooms Around the World: Check out these [portraits](#) from classrooms all over the globe.
5. Build A Pagoda: Let's make some places! Work with your students to build [Pagodas](#) (Asia).

Active Cross-Cultural Exchange:

Tour Guide Videos: If technology is available, have students upload their tour guide videos of places in their communities to the Global Playground website or to the Global Playground YouTube website (<https://www.youtube.com/TheGlobalPlayground>).

Students can showcase anything from their school, to their walk to school, to their home and family. For more information, contact info@globalplayground.org.