



Where in the World?

Poetry about life in other places on the globe

Poetry Lesson Plan for Middle School Students

Subject areas addressed: Creative writing, social studies and geography

Objectives:

- Research another region of the world to gather information on the people who live in that area and their culture.
- Have the student insert him or herself into that country and culture as a person of the same age and sex. Draft an outline of what their life would be like, i.e. a 13 year old boy living in New Zealand.
- Create a poem that shares a sense of the person, geographic area and culture from the point of view of the person.

Activities:

- If you wish to direct students so they are “transplanted” into areas and cultures you wish to have them explore, write names of places on cards and have each student draw a card.
- Or, if you wish to offer them a choice, have them choose a country that begins with the first letter of their surname. (Mike Edwards could choose Ethiopia, Egypt or England).
- Using their country and their age, have students research to gather information about life in that country and culture. Include details about what they’d wear, weather, food, and daily activities.
- Compose a poem (in the teacher’s preferred style) that reveals some of the details of life as a pre-teen or teenage in that place.

Procedures and Ideas:

- This is the type of creative writing assignment that can include other elements that explore life and culture in a different place. Pen pals (via Internet) can supply your students with details of daily life in their country. Some of your students have lived in other countries and will have experiences to share.
- Food from other lands is an interesting experience and authentic restaurants in your area or recipes prepared using ingredients from another culture will give your students a “taste” experience.
- Clothing is another area for exploration. Although American fashions have had a powerful influence on clothing worn all over the world, what would a 12 year old boy wear in Belgium or Turkey?

- Talk with students about the words they use to compose their poem, and consider including a few words in the language of the country they're writing about – as long as they know the translation. Writing about pommes frites in France may be more fun than the French fries translation.
- When your Where in the World poems are completed, remember that the Anthology of Poetry would love to have them submitted for consideration in our forum for young writers. Visit www.anthologyofpoetry.com for more information, or to electronically submit individual stories.