

Explanation Expedition

Purpose

Students will use note-taking skills.

Materials

For the teacher: chalk, chalkboard, props for game show

For the students: copies of Black Line Master (BLM) *Research Team*, paper, pencils, art supplies

Activity

A. Introduce the Activity

1. Tell students that your class is going to host a game show on world cultures. Explain that in order to have the show, you need to hire a research team to think of questions.
2. Tell your class that you need one team to research the cultures of each of the following countries: Ghana, China, Peru, India, Russia, and Sweden. Write the countries on the chalkboard.
3. "Hire" your researchers by choosing students for each team. Write their names under the country you have chosen for them.
4. Distribute one copy of the BLM *Research Team* to each student. Have the students write down their team's country and read over the categories they must research.

B. Do Research and Take Notes

1. Have research teams meet and discuss their strategies for researching categories and begin taking notes of interesting or little known facts about each category.
2. When teams have finished their research, have them meet to write a short report about their country, and illustrate it with helpful diagrams or pictures.
3. Have teams design a set of five study questions that are answered in their report.

(continued)

EXTENDING THE ACTIVITY



Have research teams take notes on new categories when starting a unit in art, history, science, or social studies. Make questions for your game show from the notes. As the number of categories grows, allow contestants to select from four categories before receiving a question. Each team should answer questions in several different categories in order to win the game.

connecting across the curriculum



Visual Arts/ Technology

Have students use class notes to design an online trivia game or study aid.

Standards Links
5.2.1, 5.7.10

Activity (continued)

C. Apply What Students Have Learned

1. Allow students time to read each report and find the answers to the study questions at the end.
2. Have your game show. Use the study questions at the end of the reports as the game show questions. To create a game show atmosphere, choose a student to be the emcee, put up signs with the name of your show, time answers, have contestants compete in teams, select students to be judges, etc.

Questions for Review

Basic Concepts and Processes

During the activity, ask students the following questions:



How did you locate information on your topic?



How did you pick information for your trivia questions?



Which facts needed pictures with them? Why?



What are some good note-taking strategies?

Name: _____

RESEARCH TEAM:

Directions: Write the country that your team is studying in the space above. Research your country and fill in interesting information about it using the categories listed below.

Environment: _____



Entertainment/Games: _____

Art: _____



Famous People: _____

Political Events: _____



Language/Customs: _____

RESEARCH TEAM

Teacher Directions

Divide the class into different research teams. Assign each research team a country and write the names of the students in each team on the chalkboard. Distribute one copy of BLM *Research Team* to each student. Have the students write the country they will be researching in the space next to the words “Research Team.” Have teams read the categories on the BLM and take notes in the appropriate spaces. When teams have finished their research, have them use their notes to write a short report about their country and to write questions for your game show.

Answer Key

Answers will vary.