

IMMERSION

Grades: 3-5

Suitable for Subjects: Language Arts, Social Sciences, DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion)

Global Competence Objective¹: Cultivate a disposition to inquire about the world, seeking information beyond familiar environments.

OVERVIEW

This activity calls for learners to participate in an immersive visual experience and then use their imagination, and the limited information presented in the image, to create an account of what they might be experiencing if they were present in the place and time of the photograph.

OTHER LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Practice "reading" images for a variety of contextual cues and meanings
- Use their imagination to develop connections
- Practice conducting research and synthesizing information

ACTIVITIES

1. Select one of the photos available on the Selected Activity Photos page [in Resources section] and project one or more onto a large screen in the classroom. You may also share in digital classroom if teaching virtually.
2. Instruct students to study the photograph for a few minutes, while standing up in front of the projection.
3. Instruct students to imagine and write/tell what they might perceive through each of their senses if they were standing or sitting right there where the photo was taken.

Consider asking:

- *What might you see?*
 - *What might you hear?*
 - *What might it smell like?*
 - *What might you be able to eat or drink there? What might it taste like?*
 - *What might the weather be like?*
 - *What might it feel like to be in that place at that time?*
4. Instruct students to develop a series of questions that they could investigate (individually, in groups, or as a class exercise) in order to make more educated guesses. For instance: What types of food are eaten in that particular city or country? What language(s) is(are) spoken? What is a sample of typical music? What are the yearly weather patterns? Etc.

VARIATIONS

1. Have students list out any additional questions that this exercise generated.
 - a. Probe as needed: What else might you want to know about this country or region?
 - b. What makes that interesting to you?
2. Create groups of 3-4 students and have them research their questions. Each team can work on a different photo.
3. Have the groups share their findings in class, potentially covering multiple countries/regions.

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