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## **Canada and Native America**

### **Creating a Peaceful World**

The idea of world peace is an idyllic one, but one that we all yearn for as humans. "Creating A Peaceful World" is a presentation on global involvement and diversity. It does not focus directly on any country's politics or beliefs, but rather includes the idea of a "peaceful world" from the eyes of Americans, Mexicans, Costa Ricans, Thais, Laos, and Cambodians. A general overview of governmental and religious structures throughout the world will lead into discussions of peace, responsibility, and the role of each country in the global sphere. Music, dancing, and/or food from each country will help demonstrate the differences in peoples lifestyles and beliefs and an interactive presentation will allow students to delve into the issues themselves. It is suitable for all ages, but to be particularly effective it is best for students in 7th-12th grades.

### **Global Environmental Issues- Nature knows no boundaries.**

Nature knows no boundaries. Environmental stewardship and conservation must be practiced at a global level. Global environmental problems will be discussed, and students will be engaged in thinking about problems and solutions. At least one student (if not all) will have the opportunity to calculate their own ecological and/or carbon footprint. Major themes discussed include: water quality, rights, and scarcity; air pollution; global climate change.

### **Global Water and Sanitation**

1.8 billion people lack access to clean drinking water, and as a result suffer from diarrheal diseases such as dysentery and cholera. Surface water is often polluted with pathogens, and groundwater can contain heavy metals such as arsenic. We will look at water and sanitation from a developing country's perspective. Water conservation, a problem known to both developing and developed countries, will also be discussed and students' "water footprints" will be calculated.



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### **Cultural Detective- Asia, South Pacific, Europe**

From the roof of the world (Himalayas and Tibet- Buddhist culture) to South-east asian Cambodian buddhist culture, to life down under in New Zealand, Australia, and Fiji to the Viking-fjord land of Norway, and everywhere in between. These cultures (mainly Asia, South Pacific, northern europe, and the US) will be compared and contrasted.

### **Compare and Contrast- Life in the Developing World.**

Students will be exposed to life in the developing world by walking through a day in the life of a young Bangladeshi student, as well as a Cambodian. The Bangladeshi and Cambodian cultures will be compared and contrasted to each other, as well as the US. Music from these cultures will be played, and students will have the opportunity to try on clothes, as well as taste food from these countries.

### **The Road Less Traveled: Rotary Youth Exchange Year Long Program**

Studying abroad changes lives every day. Most people take a summer or semester in college to do this, but how about starting early? The Rotary Youth Exchange offers a low-cost way to experience another culture while still in high school. This program places students in small towns, where there are often no other people from their country. I took a year off before college to live in Denia, Spain, a town on the Eastern coast and it changed my life. Hear about the program, my experience, and how your students can start the process of opening their minds even before college, where many programs are in big cities and flooded with other foreigners.



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### **Understanding your Neighbor to the North**

There's more to Canada than you think! Together we will explore many different regions of the "Great White North" including the Atlantic Provinces, Québec, the Prairie Provinces, and the Yukon territory. Both historical and modern issues will be addressed to show the mosaic that is Canada from a Canadian's perspective.

Particular emphasis will be placed on building cultural awareness and dispelling common stereotypes.

Some specific topics include: 1. Inuit Cultures and Isolation in the North. Living in an isolated area in a global world can be hard to take for youth in Canada's North. We will look at how Inuit culture has changed in the last 50 years and the implications it will have for their future. 2. Uniting traditional enemies: History of French and English rivalry in Canada. 3. The Acadian Expulsion and its effect on the American South.

Topics addressed may include: French Language and Culture, Canadian natural resources, Canada's socio-economic relationship with the United States, Native Canadian Customs, Traditional vs. Modern Lifestyles, Sports, Traditional Music, Immigration and Diversity in Canada.