

The first activity I did with the students this year involved a skill I acquired in Korea. I feel it is very important at the junior high age being positive and not being a bully towards each other makes a difference.

Activity: I have six tables in my classroom and that is how the students are seated. I filled six bowls with gram cubes that are four different colors. The colors represent a different question. They pick up the cubes with chopsticks but in a pinch I found that pencils worked for the novice. Each child in the group picks up a cube and answers the question. I had the groups go around three times and then I had one child rotate and the routine continues with each group having to have different answers to the questions even though the groups are somewhat the same.

Question 1: What is your academic goal for this year?

Question 2: What is your goal for this year?

Question 3 which is really a statement. Say something positive about the person to your right.

Question 4: What is your favorite song or group?

My main activity is for our Multi-Cultural Fair. Each grade picks a country and they do activities and art work. The Fair is at night and the whole school comes (including parents and grandparents) for three hours and walks around and asks each group questions. They admire the work and each country makes at least one food item and they get to sample that also.

My activity is to break my class up into 6 groups. Each group is given a topic:

1. Religion
2. Korean language
3. Housing
4. DMZ
5. Mounds
6. Chopsticks

The religions are: Catholic, Buddhist and Confucian. The students must display an example of the deity of the religion and the basic rules. They also need to show and build a model of their place of worship.

The Korean language: the students need to show the different characters used in Korean vs Chinese. They also need a model of a few Korean and Chinese words on paper. They will also detail the Hangul language which they will watch a video by Mark Peterson to get a little background.

The housing: the students need to show the modern city(Seoul) vs the average farming village. They will make a model of both. I will show examples that I took on my trip with FPRI and some from Paul Dickler.

DMZ: the students will make a model of the fence at the DMZ. As a class I will go over what the DMZ stood for and when it first went into place.

The mounds: the students will make models of the burial mounds. They will also explain the difference in the mounds in Korea vs the local Indian burial mounds. They can also make comparisons to the

pyramids of Egypt and how they are dug up but not the ones in Korea if the heritage is known for the mounds.

The chopsticks: this group will research the food of Korea. They will make examples of the typical meal arrangement (variety of dishes with vegetables) and the main meat. They will also come up with a variety of bowls with the different consistencies that they have to pick up with chopsticks.

I will take at least four or five 45 minute classes to finish this activity. The information will come from –just to name a few sources–Mark Peterson’s YouTube videos, Paul Dickler’s articles, and FPRI blogs.

The modifications and content fixes. Instead of picking six activities go with three. I would pick language, printing and religions. I think these three give the best feel of Korea and its contributions. In the religion you could just focus on the two main religions in Korea (Buddhism and Confucianism). I went with the Catholic religion because I work at a Catholic school. I wanted to show the students how our religion is not that different from the Korean religions and that we have similar practices (vigil candles vs Buddhist candles).

One could also go the English route. The students could read "Shrimp between two whales" or "Still life with rice" and talk about the trials and tribulations, or "Way home" to talk about differences in people. The students could also learn about sejos which are Korean poems and compare them to the Japanese haiku. The Wisconsin standards are: B.8.7, B8.8, B8.6, B8.2.

In the printing group I would make sure the group knew that Korea had one of the first moveable metal types. One of the oldest known books made by the moveable metal type was done by a Korean monk according to livescience.com. The book was called "Jikji" and it was done in 1377 during the Goryeo dynasty.

For the food group I would include a site (www.thekitchen.com/howtomakeeasykimchi@home). Kimchi is the basic food served with almost every meal in Korea. Kimchi is fermented cabbage but it is made in a variety of ways.