

World map game in the street



Brief description of the activity

World map game in the street is an activity for children and their families aimed at discovering new cultures through games. It uses a huge map of the world placed on the floor, to have an immediate visual impact, where children will play on, moving across the continents.

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Topics, objectives and methodology:

World map game in the street is a great way to introduce children to the world. Playing is a simple way for children to express themselves openly while engaged in a game which is related to different parts of the world. They have fun and learn more about other cultures at the same time.

Duration:

Half day

Location:

The choice of the location is crucial for this activity. As it is a moment of social gathering game related, and with a huge map in the street made out of PVC or chalk (at least 15 x 10 m) it should take place outdoor and in a big place in the city, such as a square or a public park, or a large street in the city not open to traffic.

Materials:

- A huge map of the world (at least 15x10m) made out of PVC or painted with chalk on the ground.
- Tables
- Food
- Objects related with different cultures
- Traditional costumes of different cultures
- Traditional music from different cultures
- Stories or legends in different languages

Staff needed and eventual specific skills required:

If you can't print the world map on PVC and you have to draw it on the floor with chinks, a person with drawing skills is required to make such a big drawing.

Participants involved:

As the activity takes place in large public spaces, you can involve as many children as you can, dividing them in small groups to play the different games.

Steps:

Before

The preparation of the activity

Before the event, make sure to prepare the world map. It should be at least 15x10 meters printed on PVC or drawn on the ground with chalk. Make sure you keep it true to the image of the world, but extremely colorful, since it is the main tool on which all the games of the day will be based.

It is important to create a tool the children will be comfortable to play With while learning, in a non-formal way, things about different cultures.

Be sure also to prepare other materials that you may need during the games.

Prepare in advance some food that can be either just single ingredients or a cooked meal. If possible, prepare it with participants that represent different cultures.

Select some traditional music, even better if associated with a particular moment/tradition/story/ritual from different countries.

As well as music, choose in advance some stories, in different languages (if possible connected with volunteer's nationality, so that they can read to children themselves).

Choose some pictures that show some peculiar objects representative of different cultures. If possible, have some traditional costumes as well. You can also ask participants to create these costumes together or, in alternative, you can have pictures of them.

As a final step, elaborate with the group a strategy to promote the initiative, with the goal of involving as many participants as possible, from different countries.

During

Game #1 Where does this food come from?

This game has the objective to share knowledge among participants About different cultures' food.

Each culture has its own type of food, and serving samples of these different types of food can help guests expand their palates and perhaps taste food that they may have never tried.

Also, this activity helps children to know the origin of some ingredients that they find every day on their table, thus expanding their conceptions related to the vastness of the world.

Place some food on a table that can either be just raw ingredients (i.e. beans of coffee, potatoes, basil leaves, tomatoes, chocolate, etc...) or samples of cooked meals (i.e. cous cous, pasta, tacos, etc...)

Then, inform the children that they will have to run to-

ward the table, pick an ingredient (one at the time) and run back to the world map in order to place the food chosen on the part of the world they think it came from.

After 5 minutes, stop the time and check the answers. Every correct match scores 1 point.

At the end of the activity, take a moment to explain to children where this food comes from, and which habit/story/legend/ritual is connected with it.

Game #2 World rhythm

As with food and games, all cultures use music and dance as a means of expressing themselves, though the types of music and dance will vary. For this activity you will need a stereo system and speakers. Make a playlist with all the traditional songs you selected before. For example, you could play Irish folk music, or you could play African drum music as well as Japanese, Bangla or Spanish.

Children will have 30 seconds to listen to a song, then

they will have to run and place themselves in the area on the world map they think this song belongs to.

Check the correct combinations each round, every correct match scores 1 point.

After each song, take a moment to explain to children where this song comes from, and which story/legend/ritual is connected with it.

Game #3 Objects from the world

As food and music, also traditional objects reflect the characteristics of a culture.

Place on the table different pictures representing different objects, each of them connected with a different nationality. You can use pictures of objects from everyday life, or connected with a job, or a particular tradition. They can represent musical instruments, objects connected with some particular tradition, or rituals, or even they can represent flags.

Children will have to run toward the table, pick a picture and run back to the world map to place it in the area of the world map where they think the object represented in the picture comes from. After 5 minutes, stop the time and check the answers. Every correct match scores 1 point.

At the end of the activity, take a moment to explain to children where this objects come from, and which habit/story/legend/ritual is connected with it.

Game #4 What am I wearing?

Place on the table the different costumes related to different nationalities. They don't have to be complete costumes, you can place either a hat, a shoe, a typical jacket etc... If you don't have such costumes, the game can be carried out using pictures as well.

Children will have to run toward the table, pick an element of the costume (or a picture representing it) and run back to the world map to place it in the area of the

world map where they think the costume comes from.

After 5 minutes, stop the time and check the answers. Every correct match scores 1 point.

At the end of the activity, take a moment to explain to children where this costumes come from, and which habit/story/legend/ritual is connected with it.

After

Debriefing

When the games are over, have a simple moment of debriefing with the children who took part in the activities. Stimulate their reflection with some easy questions

- Which game did you like the most? Why?
- What have you learned about the world today?
- Which country/continent fascinated you the most? Why?

- If you had a personal jet ready to leave, which country would you go to right now? Why?

Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

This activity offers to children a stimulating approach to the world, made of colour, tastes, sound and games. It is intended to stimulate their curiosity towards the new and unknown, an approach that, if properly carried out, will lead them to be more open, curious and respectful towards diversities when growing up.