

ASIA-EUROPE CLASSROOM NETWORK (AEC-NET) PROJECTS FOR 2011/2012



PROJECT FACTSHEET

NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS OF PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR(S)

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COUNTRY:

Singapore

PROPOSED PROJECT NAME:

Planet Happiness

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / SUMMARY

Happiness may be measured by the material well-being and non-material well-being of individuals in a country. It is a concept that is constantly debated by economists and sociologists.

Students are to watch videos on countries that are ranked highly in terms of happiness. Students are to think through how different categories (i.e. Material well-being, Environment, Education & Technology and Work-life balance) influence happiness in their home countries. A range of perspectives will be explored using various ICT tools. Along the process, students will have the opportunities to reflect, discuss and post images using ICT tools. They will have a better understanding of the cultures across different categories in each country as well.

Based on the discussions and images gathered, students will form groups with participants in own countries to create story on their ideal planet happiness and reproduce the story into comic strips using ICT tool. The final collaborative effort will be a compilation of the storylines in comic strips using ICT tool.

RATIONALE FOR THE PROJECT:

Students are able to:

- Reflect on the idea of 'happiness' and how the four categories, (i.e. Material well-being, Environment, Education & Technology and Work-life balance) influence happiness.
- Take on different perspectives to examine the idea of happiness.
- Experience the joy of using ICT tools to translate ideas into a comic strip.
- Identify similarities and differences in the idea of 'happiness' from participating countries in Asia and Europe.
- Appreciate cross-cultural differences between students to foster greater respect and understanding.

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION FROM ASIAN SCHOOLS/STUDENTS:

Stage 0 (Dec): Journey Begins

- Explore the 'planethappiness' website: <http://planethappiness.webs.com/>

Stage 1 (Dec-Jan): Exploring the concept of happiness

- Task 1(a): Emails will be sent to invite project student members to join as members. After accepting the invites, members will then have an account on the Members page: <http://planethappiness.webs.com/apps/members/>. Members will introduce themselves by posting picture of themselves (optional) and a short write-up about themselves on the Members page.
- Task 1(b): 1st Forum: Students will post their response on 'What is happiness to you' on the Forum page.
- Task 1(c): Students to read article on 'How do we measure national happiness?' and watch videos on happiest country on the Resources page.

Stage 2 (Feb-Mar): Exploring level of happiness in your home country

- Task 2(a): Research on the happiness ranking of your home countries in the Resources page.
- Task 2(b): Students to post images on how the different categories may have influenced the level of happiness in the ranking of their home countries on the Photos and/or Videos page. Students may use their digital cameras for this purpose. Categories include:
 1. Material Well-Being (money matters such as Housing, Income, Employment)
 2. Environment (e.g. safety, pollution, traffic conditions)
 3. Education & Technology and
 4. Work-Life Balance (e.g. work and participation in the Arts/Sports scene, work and family)
- Task 2(c): Students may post comments on the photos and/or videos posted by other members on their home countries.
- Task 2(d): 2nd forum: Based on the discussions and images, students to discuss 'Factors that affect level of happiness in countries' on the Forum page.

Stage 3 (Apr-May): Creating story on Planet Happiness

- Task 3(a): Students to form groups with participants in own countries and write a story on their ideal planet happiness. Students may use the Better Life Index found on the Resources page as a reference on what is important in their planet happiness.
- Task 3(b): 3rd forum: Students to share their story on the Forum page. Students from other groups may provide feedback or suggestions on how to improve the story.

Stage 4 (May-Jun): Reproducing story into comic strips

- Task 4(a): Students to explore Stripgenerator/ Pixton comic creator. (Type of software to be confirmed).
- Task 4(b): Taking into consideration of the feedback and suggestions given by other groups, students in each group to reproduce their story into comic strips.

Stage 5 (Jul): Reflection

- Task 5: 4th forum: Students' reflection on Forum page.

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION FROM EUROPEAN SCHOOLS/STUDENTS:

Same as above.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SCHOOLS/STUDENTS INVOLVED:

No. of Schools / Students : Min. 4 schools / min. 4 students per school

Students Age Group : 15-19

Level of English : Intermediate

PROPOSED DURATION OF PROJECT (PLEASE STATE TENTATIVE START AND END DATE):

Duration : 6-7 months

Start Date : December 2011 / January 2012

End Date : Mid-July 2012

ICT TOOLS / SOFTWARE REQUIRED:

- Youtube (videos on happiest country)
- Internet explorer
- <http://planethappiness.webs.com/>
- Website creator (sharing of photos & videos, comments on photos & videos posted, online discussion)
- Pixton Comic Creator OR Stripgenerator (To be confirmed) (create comic strips)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED:

- Digital camera
- Computer
- Internet connection