

Linking Lands: A Partnership Between Seattle and Tanzania

Introduction

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In the summer of 2003, six Seattle public school teachers traveled to Tanzania as the second half of an exchange that had brought six Tanzanian teachers to Seattle just a few months before, in March. This exchange between Seattle and Tanzanian teachers took place in order to foster stronger relations between the United States and Africa and to build educational bridges between teachers here and teachers there. The twelve teachers who took part in this reciprocal exchange share a common interest in making sure that their country's youth gain a firsthand connection with the world beyond their borders. For the Seattle teachers, part of the legacy of this journey is this curriculum.

The lessons found in this *Linking Lands* curriculum were inspired by the experiences these six teachers had during a two-week visit to the Arusha District of Tanzania. The Arusha District became world famous as the location of the Rwanda genocide trials that took place in 1998. These teachers shadowed their Tanzanian partner-teachers as they walked miles to work, taught in schoolrooms full of children, and tended to their homes and families after long days at work. They experienced firsthand the life of a Tanzanian teacher, witnessing the challenges of being caught in the middle of a rich set of traditions that have guided the people for centuries and modernization that is changing the most basic ways of life. The US teachers returned to develop lessons on topics from daily life to geography to literature in order to make their experiences useful to other teachers teaching about Africa in general and Tanzania in specific.

Acknowledgements

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EALR Chart

Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRS)	Unit/Lesson Number											
	1	2A	2B	3	4	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	6A	6B
READING												
1...understands and uses different skills and strategies to read	X				X	X	X	X		X		
2...understands the meaning of what is read	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
3...reads different materials for a variety of purposes					X							
4...sets goals and evaluates progress to improve reading												
WRITING												
1...writes clearly and effectively	X				X			X		X		X
2...writes in a variety of forms for different audiences and purposes						X		X		X		
3...understands and uses the steps of the writing process					X							X
4...analyzes and evaluates the effectiveness of written work					X							
COMMUNICATION												
1...uses listening and observation skills to gain understanding						X	X	X	X		X	X
2...communicates ideas clearly and effectively					X	X			X			
3...uses communication strategies and skills to work effectively with others												X
4...analyzes and evaluates the effectiveness of formal and informal communication												
MATHEMATICS												
1...understands and applies the concepts and procedures of mathematics												
2...uses mathematics to define and solve problems												
3...uses mathematical reasoning					X							
4...communicates knowledge and understanding in both everyday and mathematical language												
5...understands how mathematical ideas connect within mathematics, to other subject areas and to real-life situations												
SCIENCE												
1...understands and uses scientific concepts and principles					X							
2...knows and applies the skills and processes of science and technology					X							
3...understands the nature and contexts of science and technology												

Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRS)	Unit/Lesson Number											
	1	2A	2B	3	4	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	6A	6B
SOCIAL STUDIES - SKILLS												
1...uses inquiry and information skills				X							X	X
2...understands and uses interpersonal and group process skills required by citizens in a democratic society												
3...understands and applies critical thinking and problem solving skills to make informed and reasoned decisions				X								
SOCIAL STUDIES - HISTORY												
1...examines and understands major ideas, eras, themes, developments, turning points, chronology, and cause-and-effect relationships in U.S., world, and Washington State history						X		X				
2...applies the methods of social science investigation to investigate, compare, and contrast interpretations of historical events		X										
3...understands the origin and impact of ideas and technological developments on history and social change												
SOCIAL STUDIES - GEOGRAPHY												
1...uses maps, charts, and other geographic tools to understand the spatial arrangement of people, places, resources, and environments on Earth's surface		X		X	X	X	X					
2...understands the complex physical and human characteristics of places and regions				X	X	X		X				
3...observes and analyzes the interaction between people, the environment and culture	X		X		X			X	X		X	X

For complete information about Washington State's Essential Academic Learning Requirements, see: <http://www.k12.wa.us/CurriculumInstruct/default.aspx>.