

CREATIVITY CONNECTS US

CREATIVITY CONNECTS THE WORLD

Using the arts to build global awareness and understanding

- Creative experiences help students build global awareness and understanding.
- Global competence is critical for success in an interconnected world. Global competence starts with being aware, curious and interested about the world and how it works. It means investigating the world, weighing perspectives, communicating ideas, taking action, and applying disciplinary and interdisciplinary expertise.

*(Educating for Global Competence,
Asia Society and Council of Chief State School Officers, 2011)*

- “Creativity and the arts connect us, and especially children, to the rest of the world. It’s really one of the best ways of getting a child to imagine living in a different place. It starts with curiosity, and then it continues to grow insights into their own lives.”

—Rachel Goslins, Executive Director
President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities

What Does It Mean to Be a Global Citizen?

Here are some definitions generated by teachers who participated in workshops.

- **Understand** other countries and human experiences that impact the way people live in a complex, interconnected world
- **Broad view of the world** and appreciation for diverse languages and lifestyles, people and places
- **Awareness** that other countries and cultures exist and that others experience the world in different ways that are not any better or worse than our own experiences
- **Realization** that our actions affect people we don’t know and will never meet, but whom we can learn about and appreciate
- **Respect** for other cultures and lifestyles
- **Understanding** that people across the globe communicate and celebrate, and deal with adversity and opportunities, in ways that are similar and different from their own
- Add your own definition _____



4 Cs of GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

CONNECTIONS

- Global awareness and understanding often begin with personal connections.
- Common geographic origins, heritages, interests and stories can forge powerful connections to people and to the world.

COMMONALITIES AND COMPARISONS

- There are patterns in the ways in which people draw upon family roots, traditions and cultures that connect people and help them to identify who they are and see commonalities with others.
- People have both unique and universal histories, memories and experiences that help them learn about the world.

CITIZENSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

- People are both citizens of their own countries and “global citizens” who need to understand other countries and human experiences to live in a complex, interconnected world.
- Art is a universal language that helps people understand and communicate about the world.

CULTURAL INSIGHTS

- Curiosity and exploration of the familiar or the unknown help to develop global perspectives and enrich cultural insights.
- The arts are a powerful strategy for imagining and discovering people, places and cultures around the world.

TIPS FOR EDUCATORS

Foster a Spirit of Curiosity and Inquiry

- Model your own curiosity about the world.
- Leverage students’ geographic roots, heritages, interests and stories to help students make personal connections to others, to their communities and to the world.
- Keep students’ natural curiosity alive and foster inquiry with creative experiences.

Help Children Make Sense of the World

- Use the arts to help students develop cultural insights into people, places and events; to demonstrate what they know about the world; and to express their ideas about the world creatively.
- Integrate a global perspective across the school curriculum.
- Help parents understand the value of the arts to student learning about the world—and encourage parents to support arts-infused learning activities at home and at school.

Explore the World with Your Students

- Set aside any trepidation that you are not an expert at global education and commit to discovering the world with your students.
- Work with parents and community members to use the arts strategically to promote global awareness and understanding.