



Expanding Horizons: Exploring the World Through 4-H

Today, as the population of the U.S.A. becomes more diversified and technology provides us with the opportunities to easily interact with people around the world, it is important that youth learn how interconnected we truly are. 4-H global education programs are designed to help young people:

- Learn about other cultures.
- Develop positive cross-cultural attitudes and skills.
- Develop an appreciation for similarities and differences among people.
- Understand that people the world over are affected by events around the world.
- Accept global citizenship responsibilities, i.e. care for the environment, care for each other.

Why Conduct Global Education Programs?

Global education programs:

- Expand the variety of project work to include diverse and advanced project opportunities. For example, a member with a woodworking project may decide to study Scandinavian furniture design.
- Provide opportunities for youth to learn about the diverse peoples in their communities. Youth may decide to learn more about their local area through a community service project. In addition to developing citizenship and service learning skills, they will discover the unique attributes of their own community.
- Expand opportunities for 4-H members. As members learn more about the world around them, it prompts them to want to experience new things. They may be interested in one of the many exchange trips available to 4-H members, both interstate exchanges and short-term international exchanges.
- Lend themselves to learn-by-doing experiences. A wide variety of hands-on activities give youth the chance to explore the world from the convenience of home.
- Expand young people's knowledge and perspective about the world so that they may begin to understand what is happening, how it affects them, and what their responsibilities are.

There are a variety of delivery modes for global education, including stand-alone clubs, enrichment programs, or incorporation into existing club activities. Ready-to-use lessons, fact sheets and mini-lessons are included in the many global education resources available to 4-H volunteers. These can be used in numerous ways to add a global context to any club meeting or event with short, 15 minute interludes or to develop an entire year's worth of activities. Examples of global education activities are on the following pages.



Activities to Try with Your Club

Finding the World in your State and Community

Materials needed: state or local maps and world maps. In small groups, examine a state or city map to identify names of towns, rivers, etc. that may have an origin in another country. On a world map, find the namesake (town, river, or landmark) in the other country. Discuss the history of that area.

World Leaders

Use magazines, newspapers, the Internet, and other media to help youth develop an interest in current events. Find pictures and articles of the world's leaders and other famous people. Play a game by matching names with faces.

Emphasize a Particular Country

- Learn everything you can about a particular country.
- After studying that country, invite someone to share experiences about a country where they have lived or where their ancestors have lived.
- Together prepare a meal representing that country.
- Develop a culture kit about a country that shares information about: clothing, culture, education, food, language, occupations, shelter, weather, etc.

Language Match

Participants are to match a greeting or phrase with the appropriate language (and possible countries). These are easy to research on the Internet. Here are some examples:

Hello	English	Great Britain
Dumela	Setswana	Botswana
Bonjour	French	France
Ohayo Gozaimasu	Japanese	Japan
Buenos Dias	Spanish	Mexico
Bounjourno	Italian	Italy
Saloum	Persian	Iran



We're All Special

To help young people view each person in a group as an individual, introduce participants to a potato with which they must become "friends" and learn to identify its unique characteristics. Discussion can center around generalizations and how a lack of information about people who are different from us can lead to misconceptions and prejudice.

Global Connections

Explore our daily connection with items from around the world and promote an awareness of the interdependence of our world. Participants are amazed at the number of countries with which they come in contact each day through clothing, food, and technology.

Global Networking

Create a club page on a social network website and meet and learn from youth around the world. Find out what it is like for youth to live in other countries; what's important to them; and what they do for sports, hobbies, and school. Cross-cultural connection will expand knowledge and interest in the world around them.

Explore Global Concerns Related to:

- Hunger
- Environment
- Energy
- Health
- Violence
- Drug Abuse

Invite people such as water sanitation engineers, nutritionists, game wardens, or representatives of environmental action groups to talk about global concerns.

Local History Search

Interview older residents, check records at courthouses and libraries, tape conversations, visit cemeteries (make rubbings of old gravestones to record information).

Family History

Encourage members to explore their own family history by tracing their roots through preceding generations. What ethnic/cultural backgrounds can be identified?



Summary

As youth participate in these types of activities, they begin to realize the importance of understanding the world around them and also take a closer look at their own community, their state, and the United States, within the context of the whole world. This raised awareness of global issues and global interconnection encourages youth to accept global citizenship responsibilities, including changing their actions based on new knowledge and attitudes and to make a difference in the world.

This introduction is designed to help you become aware of the important role 4-H can play in global education. Challenge other volunteers and members to “make a difference.” Be involved!

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References

“And My World”, Nebraska 4-H.

For more information on New Jersey 4-H, please visit www.nj4h.rutgers.edu.

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.