

Lesson-Where We Live Determines our Diet

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Geo-Literacy Workshop
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Book title: This is the Way we Eat our Lunch, By Edith Baer

Literature Annotation: This book tells about foods that children might eat in different cultures from around the world.

Grade Level: 2nd – 5th

Duration: a week

Colo. Model Content Standards and Benchmarks:

Geography 5: Students understand the effects of interactions between human and physical systems and the changes in meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources

Reading and Writing #2: Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Reading and Writing #5: Students read to locate, select, and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference, and technological sources.

Objectives: Students will understand that traditionally, a people's diet was largely dependent upon the environment in which they live.

Students will be able to use the internet to locate information about their biome and transfer that knowledge to others in an attractive manner.

Vocabulary: biomes, diet, menu, environment, culture

Materials: This is the Way We Eat our Lunch by Edith Baur

Internet access to "Enchanted Learning" and "Ask Jeeves for Kids"

Class chart listing 6 of the major biomes (ocean, grassland, arctic, mountain, desert, rainforest)

Rand McNally Classroom Atlas or similar atlas

Large pieces of construction paper

Prior knowledge: characteristics of the 6 listed biomes

Lesson Plan:

1. With the whole class, add the names of some countries that typify each of the 6 biomes. To do this, the children will need to refer to the Environment maps listed for each of the 7 continents in the Rand McNally Classroom Atlas and compare it to the political map of each continent in the same atlas or another. Use the

physical map to find the mountainous regions of the world. Try to find countries that have one or predominantly one biome. Add this information to the class chart of biomes that already lists some of the characteristics and animals of that biome.

2. Have children pair up and choose one biome and one country that predominantly exists in that biome to research for foods and menus. Each pair group should have a sheet of paper with the headings: What I know, What I predict and What I learned.
3. Have the partners go to the “Enchanted Learning” website and click on “Biomes.” From there, they should select the biome that they have chosen to research. This site will not tell them which foods are eaten but will give information about the biome and list many animals that are found there. Under What I Know, the children should list some of the plants and animals found in this biome that they believe could be used for food in certain countries. Under What I Predict, they should write a prediction about what they believe the people in their country might eat.
4. After predictions have been made, the children should go to the website “Ask Jeeves for Kids,” and type in “What do they eat in (name of country)?” They will have several possibilities from there for finding out menus, recipes and other things about diet which should be noted under What I Learned. They may discover that the people of their country eat something that they have never heard of which will require them to ask Jeeves what that item is.
5. Information in hand, the children are ready to create a placemat to highlight their country and the foods eaten there. The placemat could include: a menu for a meal, a map of the country or a map of the world with their country colored in, pictures of the foods featured, a paragraph describing the environment of that country (the biome information), an explanation as to why those foods figure predominantly in the diet of the people in that region and perhaps a recipe,.
6. Placemats could be laminated and used or displayed at a multicultural feast with food provided by parents.