

Friends Around the World

Introduction

HyperStudio can become a tool to enhance language while uniting friends around the world in a personalized stack. Speech is expanded as children study cultures through discussion, video, and books. After becoming familiar with children around the world, this stack will apply children's knowledge of friends while expanding creativity. Children can tell stories and describe characters and their actions while gaining awareness of their cultural heritage. The *HyperStudio* stack brings each child's scanned photograph together with a drawing of a child that was chosen as a friend. Children describe what they would do if their new friend came to visit. The drawing can be scanned and come to life as children add animation and sound.

Materials

- Computer
- Microphone
- *HyperStudio*
- Flatbed color scanner
- Drawing materials
- Videos, books, songs, posters, and pictures of international children
- Old magazines (like *National Geographic*) or catalogs with international themes
- 35 mm camera and film, or a digital camera

Ahead of Time

- Take photographs of each child in your class as well as a class photo. Use either a 35 mm camera or a digital camera. Prepare pictures that will be imported into the stack. Use a flatbed color scanner and scan "friend" collage pictures. Also, scan children's drawings of what they would do if their "friend" came to visit.
- Start a stack in *HyperStudio*. Create a title card (card #1) and type "Children Around the World." Load a photograph of the entire class as clip art.
- Add a new card (#2) and load a child's photograph as clip art. Insert the photograph on the far upper left-hand side of the card.
- Place the scanned image of the "friend" as clip art and insert it on the far upper right-hand side of the same card. Place the scanned image of what each child would do if his or her "friend" came to visit in the remaining space on the card. Using the text tool, type the child's name under his or her photograph and the "friend's" name under the corresponding image. Save the stack. Another option would be to put the child's drawing on the next card.
- Add a new card and repeat the above steps for each child in the class.
- Connect the cards with buttons placed in the lower right-hand and lower left-hand corners of the cards. Consider using the globe icon.

Introductory Activity

- Share resources about children from various cultures, such as videos, books, songs, posters, and pictures, with the class over a period of time. Place resources in the reading center for exploration.
- Read one of the following books to the class during circle time: *Best Friends* (M. Cohen), *Why Am I Different?* (N. Simon), *Will I Have a Friend?* (M. Cohen), or *The Doorbell Rang* (P. Hutchins). Encourage children to share thoughts and ideas about friends.
- Provide old magazines and/or catalogs with pictures or drawings of international children. Children can cut out pictures of their favorite children from other countries and glue them on a white (8½”x11”) sheet of paper. Ask the children to name their “friend.”
- Give children drawing materials to make pictures of what they would do if their “friends” (use names given earlier) came to visit. As the children make their pictures, talk with them about it. Write the dictated story and attach the story to the drawing.

Computer Activity

- Add sound buttons to the stack, with the children recording their own name and the name of their “friends.” A sound button can be added for children to tell their stories or add sounds.
- Offer children the opportunity to draw on their pictures, adding details and color. The children can use the tools and colors to make adjustments.
- Suggest animation, giving children the opportunity to respond. If any of the children are interested, help them create animation.
- Give children the opportunity to decorate the title page and create “The End” page with the tools and color palette in *HyperStudio*. The children can help make buttons to turn cards.

Extended Activity

- Make a classroom book by printing the stack, laminating it, and binding the pages.
- Add dress-up items for international costumes: hats, shoes, bags, jewelry, cloth, bags, and beads. Invite parents to share international items. Also, use international cooking utensils (e.g., wok, tortilla press, chopsticks, etc.) for making international foods. Again, invite parents to share recipes or even to make an international dish with the children.

Summary

Although children may not have the opportunity to meet people from different countries, as children create “Friends Around the World,” they will have the opportunity to learn about other children through introductory activities to the stack, classroom activities, and the choices they make as they build the stack. *HyperStudio* can help bring this idea to life for the child, with the addition of sound and animation.