Plan your year with iEARN Projects
Celebrate UN International days
Activities & Lesson plans

International Education and Resource Network Pakistan
(A Project of Society for International Education)
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Plan your year with iEARN projects; Celebrate UN International days

Overview:
International Education and Resource Network, Pakistan has designed an International days calendar to celebrate and learn about some special United Nations International days or observances every year by integrating them with iEARN online projects!

An International day’s awareness is a date usually set by a major organization or government to commemorate a cause of importance on a national or international level to understand and share its significance in countries around the world. International Days celebration (also known as international observance or international anniversary) denotes a period of time to observe some issue of international interest or concern. Many of these periods have been established by the United Nations General Assembly, Economic and Social Council or by UNESCO (United Nations Education, Science + Cultural Organization).

iEARN Pakistan has taken an initiative to commemorate these significant days, promote iEARN online projects and mobilize youth for action. Teachers can plan their year with different iEARN projects by relating them to some International day celebrations every month. iEARN Pakistan invites youth around the world to celebrate International Days and make them meaningful by integrating iEARN Online Projects. It offers young people unique learning experiences and opportunities to express themselves and polish their skills by engaging them in reading and responding to real audiences.

The program started in September 2008 and has proved to be a great success by seeing the interest of the participants and great appreciation received from them. Since then iEARN Pakistan has developed many lesson plans and activities to engage schools and students at national and international levels by participating in them.

These lesson plans and activities mostly include language arts, creative arts, science and community service projects. Starting from September 2008, iEARN Pakistan has enabled youth to celebrate International Literacy Day, World Teachers’ Day, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, International Day for Tolerance, Universal Children’s Day, Human Rights Day, International Mother Language Day, World Storytelling Day and Earth Day etc. Lesson plans for these international observances related to iEARN projects can be found at http://www.iearnpk.org/iEARN_workshops/intl_days.htm. Beside these days, there are many other significant days’ celebrations and iEARN Pakistan is in the process of developing activities to commemorate these events.
January

*Family Traditions*

Participate in iEARN Kindred (Family History) Project
to celebrate

Global Family Day

January 1st

There are historic and important events to commemorate nearly every day of the year. Use some of these dates to boost your students’ knowledge of the world in a fun and learning way. Get your students involved in interesting iEARN project activities.

iEARN Pakistan invites you to come and join hands together to celebrate Global family Day that connect youths and adults — to make a difference in their communities through projects that connect families, help eliminate hunger and support peace around the globe.

**Brief History:**

Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing, to be celebrated on January 1 every year, is the world’s first-ever annual celebration of the reality that we are all one human family striving for a safer world. This unifying new tradition, initiated by children, was unanimously passed on September 25, 2006 by the U.S. Congress. It has also been endorsed twice by the UN General Assembly and by more than 20 sitting heads of state. On January 1, at the start of the United Nations Year of the Planet, let’s all gather at our electronic hearth and celebrate life on earth together. Let’s replace hate and hunger with peace and sharing, and begin to unite our global family.

(http://www.gfday.org)

**What are Family traditions?**

The word "tradition" can be defined as the handing down of certain beliefs, customs, and legends from generation to generation Family traditions or tradition, also called Family culture, is defined as aggregate of attitudes, ideas and ideals, and environment, which a person inherits from his/her parents and ancestors. These can include language, religious beliefs and practices and the celebration of particular holidays unique to their culture or religion.

**iEARN Project: Kindred (Family History)**

Students are asked to interview member of their immediate family (mother, father, brothers, sisters), extended family (grandparents, uncles, aunts), neighbors or friends in the local community. They should ask them about experiences in their life that have been affected by the events of world or local history. Events may include war, natural disasters, migration,
important discoveries, monuments, famous places and so on. Students should focus on the impact for the family.

**Student Objectives:**

Students will

- Appreciate unique family traditions by analyzing and researching their own family traditions
- Practice research skills by looking up information about their ancestral countries and writing about it in the class book
- Practice using description in writing about their family traditions
- Identify family traditions and difference between cultures and ideas by sharing it with peers in classrooms and also with peers globally.
- Apply what they have learned about family traditions and use their creativity to create a booklet.
- learn to respect the differences of others and understand the importance of history and tradition

**How does it work?**

1. Build a background by giving examples of traditions. (ie. special meals, rites of passage, yearly celebrations, inheritance, religious, naming, special family times). The focus should be on traditions language, religious beliefs and practices and the celebration of particular holidays unique to their culture or religion. Teacher can share from own experience. For example:
   - Every Sunday we have Biryani for lunch.
   - Every summer we go to Grandma and Grandpa’s house.
   - Once a week we go out for dinner.
2. Make a family tradition checklist using information collected by students. Make a large display of checklist for students’ viewing.
3. Use family tradition checklist as a guide and ask each student to write sentences by making necessary additions or changes. Students will create a booklet of family traditions where every new page will start with a new tradition.
4. Illustrate the first page of family tradition booklet. It is not essential that all areas of checklist appear on every student’s page.
5. Share with each other in class to point out the similarities.

**Sharing on the forum:**

Share your family tradition booklet with global peers in iEARN interactive forum and make connections between different cultures by pointing out similarities.

**Forum address:** - Students can share artwork in *Kindred (Family History)* project forum. It can be accessed in iEARN Collaboration Centre at: [http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-99](http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-99)
February

One Expression, Many Languages

Participate in iEARN Calligraphic Arts Project to celebrate International Mother Language Day February 21st

Brief History:

The International Mother Language Day has been observed every year since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. Languages are the most powerful instruments of preserving and developing our tangible and intangible heritage. The recognition of the importance of linguistic diversity led to UNESCO’s decision to celebrate International Mother Language Day.

All moves to promote the dissemination of mother tongues will serve not only to encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education but also to develop fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world.

International Mother Language Day aims at promoting linguistic diversity and multilingual education, and at raising awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue. Ensuring that these languages can continue in use alongside the major international languages of communication is a genuine challenge to countries worldwide.


iEARN Project: Calligraphic Arts

Theme: One Expression, Many Languages

Messages:

“Life without love is like a tree without blossoms or fruit”
(Khalil Jibran)

“Nothing can bring you peace but yourself.”
(Ralph Waldo)

Participation Guide for Project:

Calligraphy or ‘Beautiful Writing’ is one of the oldest artistic and literary forms known to people. Calligraphic art has always been part of heritage and culture for civilizations and religion around the world. It has been traditionally used for adorning sacred places for prayers and worship as well as holy scripter, poetry and writings.

This project is designed to engage students to explore the art of Calligraphy, learn its history and learn techniques. Students will write short given message of love and peace in their mother language using different mediums including software to produce calligraphic pieces and share
their completed projects in the iEARN interactive forum for Calligraphic Arts. Likewise students will get an opportunity to appreciate and comment on the pieces of Calligraphic art designed by peers from participating countries.

Steps to follow:

- Read and understand the given message of love and peace.
- Translate it in your mother language.
- Use the art of Calligraphy to write the goodwill messages of peace in a sacred and artistic fashion.
- Submit your Calligraphic artwork in iEARN online forum.
- Students who cannot use calligraphic scripts by using computer keyboards, can do it in a traditional way on a post card size paper and get it scanned to submit it in the forum.
- Appreciate and comment on the pieces Calligraphic art designed by peers from participating countries.

Finished Project:

Finished projects are to be submitted in iEARN Calligraphic Arts forum under the discussion “One Expression, Many Languages”

Calligraphic Arts - Forum address:

iEARN Calligraphic Arts Project forum can be accessed in iEARN Collaboration Centre at: http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-27
March

Participate in iEARN My Mother, Your Mother Project to celebrate International Women's Day March 8th

International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women.

In December 1977 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women’s Rights and International Peace. Although much remains to be done to achieve full equality, the voices of women are being heard. March 8th provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the achievements of women and to highlight the needs and concerns of women on national, regional and global agendas. (http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007/history.shtml http://www.unac.org/en/news_events/un_days/women1.asp)

Mothers are everything for us when we are small...our lives revolve around her. For everything that we need we call mother. To protect us from all perceivable dangers we want her around us. To take us out we hold her arms. To kiss away our wounds we run to her. And for a warm hug and love we look for her. She is the focal point of our lives, the greatest human being in the world or should we say divinity on earth. On the special occasion of Mothers Day pay tribute to your mother - the greatest blessing of God on you

Activity: My Mother, Your Mother

Our goal is to compile and post on essays or stories to talk about their own mother who play a vital role in their lives or some great mothers who have faced challenges in their lives in developing a family. They can talk about their role in their families and how they brought them up and showed them how to become good members in their societies. Students are encouraged to make research about some great mothers in their societies, who have contributed a lot in the history of their countries. Doing so, kids are going to express their gratitude towards their mothers. Students can do some research about mothers, grandmothers or some great mothers in families or community and present their sacrifices for the family.

Activity Description:

- In this project students are asked to collect data on the life of their mother, grandmother or some great mothers in their families, neighborhood and community.
- Students can also arrange an interview if possible and ask them about their experiences in their life.
- They should focus basically on the sacrifices and efforts they made to brought up their kids and maintain family ties following the family traditions.
- Arrange the interview information in an interesting and well written three paragraph essay/story/narrative, giving it an interesting title.
Finished Project:

- Can be an article, presentation, picture story, poem, interview report giving it an interesting title.

Finished Project:

- Should be a document word processed and an interesting and well written three paragraph essay/story/narrative, giving it an interesting title.

My Mother, Your Mother- Forum address:

Submit your essays or stories in iEARN project My Mother, Your Mother forum at: http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-178
April

We Care for Earth

Celebrate World Earth Day with iEARN Every Day is Earth Day project

April 22nd

Celebrate World Earth Day by participating in interesting iEARN project activities. Offer young people unique learning experiences and opportunities to express themselves by writings or drawings and polish their skills by engaging them in reading and responding to real audiences. Educators can use earth day event to encourage students to make resolutions to do good for themselves while taking care of their community and environment that can change the life styles and result in promoting earth-friendly habits and deeds in their everyday lives.

World Earth Day History:
Students from all over the world are invited to discuss the problem of saving the Earth, to show all the kinds of air, water pollution and the ways they really do to keep the Earth clean.

The United Nations celebrates an Earth Day each year on the March equinox, a tradition which was founded by peace activist John McConnell in 1969. A second Earth Day, which was founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in in 1970, is celebrated in many countries each year on April 22 which marks the beginning of the modern environmental movement.

Approximately 20 million people participated, with a goal of a healthy, sustainable environment. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values. Mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting the status of environmental issues onto the world stage. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_Day)

iEARN Project: Every Day is Earth Day

Brief description of project:

This is an international collaborative project in which students from all over the world are invited to discuss the problem of saving the Earth, to show all the kinds of air, water pollution and the ways they really do to keep the Earth clean. Students create individual family plans for protecting our earth after researching steps taken by other countries to preserve our planet. Protecting our planet for future generations is important, but they often don’t know how they can individually make a difference or even what they can do.
Activity: “Make an Earth-Day Resolution”

1. Discuss and make some earth-friendly resolutions with your families. For example find ways to:
   - help conserve energy
   - save water
   - re-use paper
   - keep air clean
   - use paper bags
   - use trash cans

2. Create a plan how you will implement it with your family.

3. Take action to make a difference.

4. Share it in iEARN forum with others by posting it under the relevant discussion in the project forum.

Forum address: Every Day is Earth Day

Submit your family plan in Every Day is Earth Day project forum under the discussion “Earth Day Resolution”. It can be accessed in iEARN Collaboration Centre at:
http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-175
May

Protecting Children in Cyberspace

Celebrate World Information Society Day
with Digital Citizenship project
May 17th

Join iEARN online projects to Celebrate World Information Society Day with iEARN Pakistan to build a society of Young people who are the best promoters of ICT and empower them to make effective use of ICT.

Background of World Information Society Day:

World Information Society Day is celebrated each year to promote people’s awareness of the power of information and communication to build societies in which they can create, access, use and share information and knowledge to achieve their full potential. In November 2005, the World Summit on the Information Society called upon the UN General Assembly to declare 17th May as World Information Society Day to focus on the importance of ICT and the wide range of issues related to the Information Society raised by WSIS. The General Assembly adopted a resolution in March 2006 stipulating that World Information Society Day shall be celebrated every year on 17th May. The purpose of this day is to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

Theme 2010
“Better city, better life with ICT”

The technology and media have a persuasive influence in young people’s social and cultural experiences. Many young people’s lives today are dominated by technology where an average child grows up with television, DVD player, iPods, mobile phones, CD players, video games and computers. If our children are to be able to navigate their lives through this multi-media culture, they need to be fluent in “reading” and “writing” the language of images and sounds just as we have always taught them to “read” and “write” the language of printed communications. Furthermore, they need the skills to interact, to share their ideas and to collaborate constructively, making it possible to participate in today’s technology and media-driven culture. The impact of the availability of ICT on student learning strongly depends on their specific uses. On one hand, student performance is need to be observed and on the other hand, equip them with ICT and evolving technologies skills to have a significant and positive impact on their learning.
Risks and Benefits of the Internet

The internet is a powerful tool for developing students’ communication and collaboration skills. Above all, the internet is an effective means of building language skills. Through email, chat rooms and discussion groups, students learn the basic principles of communication in the written form. Due to the free availability of information on the Internet, a major risk that a child may be exposed to is inappropriate material, hateful or violent in nature or encourages activities that are dangerous or illegal.

Message from Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

“...telecommunications are more than just a basic service – they are a means to promote development, improve society and save lives. This will be all the more true in the world of tomorrow.”

Ref: http://www.itu.int/wtisd/2010/messages/ki-moon.html

iEARN Pakistan initiative:

iEARN Pakistan invites all to celebrate Information Society Day by documenting how they use media and technology in their daily lives and activities. The purpose of these activities on the occasion of World Information Society day is to enable them to understand the positive use of computers, Internet and other devices. They also need to reflect upon the way technology and media influence their lives, deal with the potential risks of cyberspace and ensure safer use of Internet. The main focus of celebrating this day is to:

- **Document and reflect**: Students need to document how they spend their day influenced by media and technology. They also need to reflect upon the significant role media is playing in their lives;

- **Create public awareness**: Identify risks and vulnerabilities to children in cyberspace as the Internet and other online resources continue to expand.

iEARN Project: Digital Citizenship

Our youth confidently use digital tools often without realizing their responsibility to use digital tools/services/forums/ both to respect the rights of others and at the same time protect themselves from potential threats. This project is developed to help our native digital users become aware of their rights and responsibilities and to spread the message to benefit the wider community.

The project aims at making students aware of their responsibility while working online. Students will understand the term ‘Digital Citizenship’ and what it means in their context. They will learn Digital etiquettes, make conscious efforts to practice them and spread them amongst their friends and family. They will become aware of e-safety by learning about common web threats such as computer viruses (spyware, malware, adware, phishing, & pharming) and web issues such as copy right laws, cyber bullying, and plagiarism.
Activity: Protecting Children in Cyberspace

Steps to be taken:

1. Initiate a discussion:

   Have a discussion with your class about the risks and benefits for internet usage. Discuss why children use internet and which websites and search engines they prefer to use.

2. Set Reasonable Rules and Guidelines

   You should lay down guidelines and rules for computer and internet use by your students. Discuss these rules with your students first and then post them near the computer as a reminder.

3. Create with technology

   Ask students to design any one of the following to create public service announcements (PSAs):
   - Internet Safety Posters
   - Small video clips
   - Animated Clips
   Note: Students can use any available software to show their creativity to ensure safe practice with technology.

4. Share it with others

   Share it globally by posting it in iEARN online “Digital Citizenship” project forum. You can also share it in your school by posting them around or having a contest.

“Digital Citizenship” - Forum address:
iEARN “Digital Citizenship” project forum can be accessed in iEARN Collaboration Centre at:

http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-182
June

Practice Recycling

Participate in iEARN YouthCaN Project to celebrate

World Environment Day

June 5th

iEARN Pakistan invites you to celebrate and enjoy World Environment Day and motivate others to preserve the natural beauty of Earth and create a safe environment. Let’s empower people to change their attitudes towards environmental issues and become active agents to take part in the preservation and upholding of beauty of this world. Let’s ensure all nations and people enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

History of World Environment Day:

World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 5 June in more than 100 countries. On this day, individuals, non-governmental organizations, community and youth groups, business, industry and the media organize activities to renew their commitments to protect and develop the environment. They organize activities such as clean-up campaigns, tree planting, colorful street rallies, green concerts, essay and photo competitions in schools, and recycling efforts. The purpose is to spread awareness regarding climate change and the broader consequences of environmental issues and what societies can do in response. (http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/553/)

iEARN Activity: “Practice Recycling”

Overview:

Recycling helps to conserve energy and natural resources, contributes to the economy, and reduces the amount of municipal waste requiring disposal. Recycling also promotes an awareness of the finiteness of our natural resources and offers an environmentally acceptable method of municipal waste management (http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/enved/Rec_Lessons/survey.htm)

iEARN Project: YouthCaN Environmental Project

Brief description of project:

The student will become familiar with positive attitudes toward recycling and the spread practice of recycling in the community.
Materials Required:

- Computer with Printer
- Chart Papers
- Coloured Markers/ Pens

How you can celebrate the day

Teachers will:

1. Discuss with the students importance of recycling for conservation of environment and starting an awareness campaign in your school/locality.

2. Discuss about promoting to other students and community members to understand importance of recycling and pick up their rubbish and put it in the right bin.

3. Make action plan and assign them duties to go to different areas/school campuses and spread the awareness campaign.

Students will:

Team up & discuss:

- Form small groups of and discuss how to carry on this campaign.
- Install dustbins at different places labeled glass, paper and litter and talk to people to put rubbish in the right bin.
- Make posters to put around the school and nearby community to encourage others to think.

Research:

- After every few days go out to that particular area and have them count and write down how many pieces of glass, paper and litter they can find.

Organize & Conclude:

- When sufficient data is collected after a set period, import the data that they have collected into a spreadsheet program and plot a graph using data such as area, paper, plastic, bottles, glass etc.

Take Action:

- Print the findings to track the amount of litter in an area to see if an awareness campaign is working.
- Share the results in the iEARN YouthCaN project forum and discuss the changes you have brought by your awareness program.
- Summarize the facts and prepare a presentation in any form of media to promote public awareness.
- Make a presentation in school or in community to create awareness.
YouthCaN Environmental Project forum address:

Submit your presentations in **YouthCaN project** forum under discussion “**Practice Recycling**”. It can be accessed in iEARN Collaboration Centre at:  [http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-18](http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-18)
Get your students involved in interesting iEARN project activities. Have your students develop the art of writing by expressing themselves in writing short essays or stories and polish their skills by engaging them in reading and responding to real audiences.

About World Population Day

World Population Day is an annual event, observed on July 11, which seeks to raise awareness of global population issues. The event was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program in 1989. It was inspired by the public interest in Five Billion Day on July 11, 1987, approximately the date on which the world's population reached five billion people. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) partners with governments and non-governmental organizations in 140 countries to promote reproductive health. These programs help to save lives, slow the spread of HIV and encourage equal rights for men and women. This, in turn, helps to reduce poverty and stabilize population growth, creating more healthy and prosperous families, communities and a better world.

http://www.betterworld.net/movement/paths/population.htm

iEARN Project: MY COUNTRY

This project is a place for students from around the world to express themselves through essays, drawings, poetries, on different sectors of their country this will help know better each other and make a better understanding between people.

Activity: More Mouths, More to feed

Every July 11 is celebrated as World Population Day, to highlight the importance of addressing and finding solutions to population issues. The number of people living on the planet has greatly increased in recent years. The more people there are, the more resources are consumed and the greater the strain on the ecosystems of the world. Every minute 140 babies are born. On July 11, 1987 one newborn in Yugoslavia was declared to be the 5 billionth human alive on the planet. Students will better understand the issues related to population growth and will have developed and educated opinion of how to handle this issue.
Steps to follow:

Step-1: Topic Identification

Students will learn about population growth, the potential issues associated with the world's growing population. They will also learn about related issues and needs which include marketing, housing, health, politics, and education.

Step-2: Research

- Ask students to access to the Library or internet to get information about:
  - Population growth and causes
  - Why is population growth a concern?
  - Meeting the needs of an over populated society

- After researching this information students will discuss their answers as a class.

Step-3: Compose

- Students will write a two to three paragraph response to the following using specific information from the population research.
- Students can take pictures from a digital camera or draw pictures themselves. Ask them to gather all the required information that they will be using.

Step-4: Final product

Choose one of the following ways of presenting the information you have collected:

- A word document (1-2 pages only)
- A power point presentation (8-10 slides only)
- A two minutes video

Related Activities: Students will then create Population Pyramids for their country using data collected during research in class. For reference click on [http://www.pap.org.pk/statistics/population.htm#tabfig-1.1](http://www.pap.org.pk/statistics/population.htm#tabfig-1.1)

My Country Forum address: Students can share their work in “My Country” project forum. It can be accessed in iEARN Collaboration Centre at: [http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-108](http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-108)

Note: Your final presentation should have less words/text and more visuals and pictures.
August

Youth Now & Before – differences/similarities

Participate in iEARN We are Teenagers Project to celebrate International Youth Day August 12th

iEARN Pakistan invites youth to celebrate and enjoy International Youth Day and motivate other youth from around the world to take action to be seen, be heard and draw attention towards Youth rights

Background of International Youth Day

The International Youth Day is celebrated on 12th August as 'the most important day for youth at the United Nations'.

The General Assembly on 17 December 1999 in its resolution 54/120, endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. The Assembly recommended that public information activities be organized to support the Day as a way to promote better awareness of the World Program of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in 1995.

It is meant as an opportunity for governments and others to draw attention to youth issues worldwide. Concerts, workshops, cultural events, and meetings involving national and local government officials and youth organizations take place around the world in honor of International Youth Day.


iEARN Project: We are Teenagers

Brief description of project:

A project that encourages the creation of postcard size images to an online gallery which is dedicated to the ideals of friendship and understanding through visual communication. Students select a theme and create a postcard. The post cards can be scanned and email it to the project site as an attachment for inclusion in the online gallery.

Activity for International Youth Day:

“Youth Now & before – differences/similarities”

Teacher’s role:

Teachers will create awareness in youth about their role in society to promote their rights and aspirations. Teachers will also encourage them and help them understand how privileged they are by discussing with them the differences and similarities between today’s youth and youth in past
as well as help them to create postcard size images. Teachers will also facilitate students to scan the postcards and post them to the eye to eye project forum.

**Student’s role:**

- Create EYE TO EYE postcards on the theme **“Youth Now & Before – differences/similarities”**
- Write an essay, poem to match one of the postcards
- Create a role play on the above mentioned theme *(optional)*
- Scan the postcard and post it in the relevant forum accompanied with essay or poem.
- Send International Youth Day postcards to your friends to celebrate the most important day for youth.

**Finished Project:**

Finished projects are to be submitted in Eye to Eye project forum under the discussion **“Youth Now & Before – differences/similarities”**

**We are Teenagers- Forum Address:**

*We are Teenagers* project forum can be accessed in iEARN Collaboration Centre at: [http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-90](http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-90)
September

*What Literacy means to me?*

**Celebrate International Literacy Day**
by participating in iEARN Online *Write On* Project
September 8th

Have your students develop the art of writing by expressing themselves in writing short essays or stories and polish their skills by engaging them in reading and responding to real audiences by participating in iEARN “Write On” Project

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**Why is International Literacy Day celebrated?**

International Literacy Day was established in 1965 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and is celebrated around the world each year on September 8. In 1990, the United Nations General Assembly gave a boost to world literacy by proclaiming International Literacy Year. This special Year signified the ongoing commitment of the world community to recognize and support literacy as a key to personal development and to the socio-economic progress of nations.

Literacy is a cause for celebration since there are now close to four billion literate people in the world. However, literacy for all children, youth and adults - is still an unaccomplished goal and an ever moving target. A combination of ambitious goals, insufficient and parallel efforts, inadequate resources and strategies, and continued underestimation of the magnitude and complexity of the task accounts for this unmet goal. Lessons learnt over recent decades show that meeting the goal of universal literacy calls not only for more effective efforts but also for renewed political will and for doing things differently at all levels - locally, nationally and internationally. ([http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/literacy/index.html](http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/literacy/index.html))

**iEARN Project: Write-On**

This project is aimed at introducing students a range of writing forms that includes, story writing, expository writing, persuasive writing, descriptive, informative writing and poetry. The idea of prompts or starters is used to help students begin with the writing using a relevant graphic organizer from a selection available in the resource section of this project.

**Participation Guide for the Write-On Project**

Participation is very simple, just follow the steps below:
Step-1

- Register your class under the discussion heading providing all the required material.
- Have students review the power point presentation on the Domains of Writing.
- Encourage the students to read and respond to at least 1-2 existing writing pieces.

Step-2

- Now encourage the student to choose one of the prompts relevant to the ‘Celebration of Literacy Day’ to write on, or teachers or any students can post one prompt themselves.

Here are the prompts that relate to the ‘International Literacy Day’

1. What will I do to improve the literacy rate of my country if I become the Education Minister? (Persuasive)
2. What is my understanding of Literacy and how does it help a human being become a better person? (descriptive)
3. What does Literacy means to me? (narrative)
4. Write a story or an incidence if you remember or know that describe how not being literate have made life difficult for anyone (descriptive).

Step-3

- To facilitate the writing process, one of the graphic organizers can be chosen from the resources section.
- Students can select one of the prompts from the above list to write on.
- Now set to produce the first draft of the writing.
- Proof read, check and finalize the writing.
- Once the final draft is completed, post it under discussion “8th September, International Literacy Day” in the iEARN Write on forum.
- Please remember to write your full name, school, class, city and country.

Write on Forum address:

Write on forum can be accessed in iEARN Collaboration Centre, under the project categories ‘Language Arts’. It can also be accessed directly at: [http://media.iearn.org/projects/writeon](http://media.iearn.org/projects/writeon)

Writing Guidelines for students

Make sure that you understand the assignment before you plan and write your paragraph. Then follow the steps listed below.

Prewriting ………………choosing the topic

- Select a specific topic that meets the requirements of the assignment. (Your teacher may give you a general subject area to choose a topic from.)

Gathering Details
• Collect ideas and details about your topic.
• Write a topic sentence that states what your paragraph is going to be about.
• List ideas and details that support the topic sentence. Decide on the best way to arrange these details.

Writing..................writing the first draft

• Start your paragraph with the topic sentence. (Indent first line)
• Follow with sentences that support your topic. Use your list of details as a guide.
• End with a sentence that reminds readers about your topic.

Revising ...............improving your writing

• Add information if you need to say more about your topic.
• Rewrite any sentences that sound confusing or awkward.

Editing..................checking for style and correctness

• Check the revised version of your writing for style as well as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling errors. Also have someone else check for errors.
• Than write a neat final copy of your paragraph to share.
October

“Say thanks to an Elder who made a difference in your life.”

Celebrate International Day of Older Persons
by participating in iEARN Local History Project

October 1st

Celebrate International Day of Older Persons on October 1st to honor, recognize and acknowledge the valuable contributions of older people they made to our families, communities and society. It is also an annual celebration to pay tribute to their wisdom and their lifetime experiences and a time to address the issues faced by them.

Brief History:
The composition of the world population has changed dramatically in recent decades. It should be noted that at present women outnumber men by an estimated 66 million among those aged 60 years or over. Among those aged 80 years or over, women are nearly twice as numerous as men, and among centenarians women are between four and five times as numerous as men.

Almost 700 million people are now over the age of 60. By 2050, 2 billion people, over 20 per cent of the world’s population, will be 60 or older. The increase in the number of older people will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, with Asia as the region with the largest number of older persons, and Africa facing the largest proportionate growth. With this in mind, enhanced attention to the particular needs and challenges faced by many older people is clearly required.

Secretary-General's Message for 2011

"In the current fiscal environment, we must be vigilant in ensuring that the provision of social protection, long-term care and access to public health for the elderly is not undermined. On this International Day of Older Persons, I call on governments and communities everywhere to provide more opportunities for their ageing populations."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
Message for International Day of Older Persons (2011)

(http://www.un.org/en/events/olderpersonsday/)

iEARN Project: Local History

Students are asked to interview member of their immediate family (mother, father), extended family (grandparents, uncles, aunts), neighbours or friends in the local community. They should ask them about experiences in their life that have been affected by the events of world or local history. Events may include war, natural disasters, migration, important discoveries, monuments, famous places and so on. Students should focus on the impact for the family.
Participation Guide for the Local History Project – *Life of Older People*

**Activity Description:**

- In this project you are asked to interview anyone of your family members. You should ask them to share their experiences in life.
- You should focus basically on stories or events that impacted their life.
- Arrange the interview information in an interesting and well-written *three paragraph essay/story/narrative*, giving it an interesting title.
- Once your story is complete, you are required to post it under the discussion “*Life of Older People*” in the Local History Projects forum.

**Local History - Forum address:** Submit your *essay/story/narrative* in Local History forum at: [http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-104](http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-104)
November

Universal Children's Day

iEARN Project: Global Art-Sense of Caring

Nov 20th

Brief History:

The Universal Children's Day is a special day that started on November 20, 1959 when all the nations of the world, the United Nations, adopted the declaration of the rights of the child. Today is important because not all children in the world have rights. The adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the creation of Universal Children's Day reflects the growing recognition that children are important and valued members of society, now and in the future. Universal Children's Day celebrates children just for being themselves. It reminds us that children need love and respect to grow to their full potential. It is a day to listen to children, to marvel at their uniqueness and all they have to offer.


iEARN Project: Global Art –Sense of Caring

Brief description of project:

The purpose of this global art project is to provide the opportunity for children/youth in schools and communities around the world to exchange artwork images and writings on the theme of “Caring”. Students in participating schools and communities create artwork that shows what they care about and how they care for one another and other living things in their schools, families, communities and the world. Each student also writes an essay or poem on his/her ideas on caring.

Activity: “Treat Me right”

Activity Description:

Children have rights as human beings and also need special care and protection. These rights should be respected by everyone regardless of race, color, gender, language, religion, opinions, origins, wealth, birth status or ability and therefore apply to every human being everywhere.

Children also have the right to protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination. This includes the right to safe places for children to play, constructive child behavior, and acknowledgment of the evolving capacities of children. Children have the
right to participate in communities and youth voice activities, and involving children as decision-makers. Children also have the right to an adequate standard of living, health care, education and services, and to play. These include a balanced diet, a warm bed to sleep in, and access to schooling.

**Participation Guidelines:**

- Brainstorm theme for the artwork i.e. “Treat Me Right”
- Choose from any of the topics given above on the theme of child rights.
- Create an artwork showing child rights to make a difference in the life of a disadvantaged child.
- Scan the artwork and attach it to your discussion.
- The drawings may be accompanied by 75 – 100 words description of the artwork.
- Participants may not draw any artwork that is already owned and copyrighted by another company.
- Submission the art work on **Global Art-Sense of Caring** forum.

**Forum address: Global Art – A Sense of Caring**

Students can share artwork in **Global Art – A Sense of Caring** forum. It can be accessed in iEARN Collaboration Centre at:
December

Celebrate Human Rights Day
Participate in iEARN Project – Finding Solutions to Hunger
December 10th

Poverty is a cause and a product of human rights violations. Join Struggle with iEARN to make real progress towards end of poverty.

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: 1948-2008

Respect for human rights and human dignity "is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world", the General Assembly declared three years later in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 1950, all States and interested organizations were invited by the General Assembly to observe 10 December as Human Rights Day.

The Day marks the anniversary of the Assembly's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Over the years, a whole network of human rights instruments and mechanisms has been developed to ensure the primacy of human rights and to confront human rights violations wherever they occur.

http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/humanrights/

Message from Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Today, poverty prevails as the gravest human rights challenge in the world. Combating poverty, deprivation and exclusion is not a matter of charity, and it does not depend on how rich a country is. By tackling poverty as a matter of human rights obligation, the world will have a better chance of abolishing this scourge in our lifetime...Poverty eradication is an achievable goal.

http://www.un.org/events/humanrights/2006/

iEARN Project - Finding Solutions to Hunger

Participants will begin the study of hunger/ food justice by examining their own eating patterns. They will keep food diaries of the amounts and kinds of food they eat every day and research their calorie and nutrient intake. They will reflect on the importance of food in their own lives and where their food comes from. They will compare their own food diaries with students in classrooms around the world, to understand how different cultures eat different types of foods and consume different amounts of calories and nutrients.

After sharing food diaries and analyzing types and amounts of food consumed per person, students will participate in activities to help understand how food and resources are distributed globally.

Participation Guide for the “Finding Solutions to Hunger Project”

Step-1: Know about Hunger and Poverty:
As a preparation to the project, teachers can either give the print outs or have the students get information and have a class discussion on ‘The World Hunger Problems’. Resource can be obtained from the following websites:

- **Facts and data on hunger and poverty:**
  - [http://library.thinkquest.org/C002291/high/present/stats.htm](http://library.thinkquest.org/C002291/high/present/stats.htm)

- **Video clips on hunger and poverty**

- **Teachers guide for Feeding can be downloaded at:**
  - [http://www.feedingminds.org](http://www.feedingminds.org)

### Step 2: Get into Action

- To start your project, first look at your community. This could be your school, your neighborhood or your city and choose a poverty stricken home/family with children that need your help.
- Collect food items for the family that you have selected. Every student in the class will bring one dry food/grocery item between Rs.50-Rs.100 and each class/section prepares a food box.

### Step 3: Implement

Select a group of student from the class, visit the home of identified family and give the food box to them. Briefly interview them for their feelings and problems and share your experiences with them and take photographs if possible and allowed.

### Step 4: Reflect

Ask your students to reflect on what they have accomplished and learned about Hunger and Poverty. Students should think about the impact they have had on those being served and how their own attitudes and behavior have changed.

### Step 5: Share

At the end of each of the projects students will share their project reports, experiences and outcomes in the form of simple reports, Power Point presentations, pictorial report or short 2 minutes videos and post on iEARN online Finding Solutions to Hunger forum at [http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-81](http://collaborate.iearn.org/space-2/group-81)
FOOD FOR ALL: OCTOBER 17TH

FEEDING MINDS FIGHTING HUNGER

WHAT IS HUNGER?
Everyone knows the feeling of hunger as the urge to eat that signals the time for the next meal. But many know hunger as a constant companion because the need does not follow. Then hunger is an endless discomfort, weakness, and pain. The term as used here means a continuous lack of the nutrients necessary to achieve and maintain optimum health, well-being, and protection from disease. People who live with hunger may simply have too little food to eat or may not choose enough nutrient-rich foods from those available. One form of hunger is a “blanket they are afraid to make,” and the other is a “choke they could make.” To say this, though, is to lose the depth of the experience of living without food. The following excerpts from a writer in India describes hunger in more personal terms:

For hunger is a constant thing, all that it is with you all the time, waking and sleeping and in your dreams, and your body craves it incessantly, and there is a knollling and a pain as if your very veins were being devoured, and you must stop at any cost, and you must not resile even while you know and fear the worst. Then the Sabbath is no longer sharp but dull, and this too with you always, do that you think of food many times a day and each time a terrible privation assails you, and because you know the you try to avoid the thought but you cannot, it is with you. Then that too is gone, all that, all that, only a great emptiness left like the sky, like a void in the brain, and it is now that the strength drains from your veins, and you try to fight and you cannot, or to swallow and your heart is powerless, and both the swallow and the effort of holding the food take you to the ultimate:

In countries known as third world countries, or developing countries, the food situation is much more severe. In countries such as India, Pakistan, several areas of Africa, and parts of South America hundreds of people die of starvation every day.

Realization of world hunger as a problem which needs to be a concern for all the people of the world. It is not a problem just for those it directly affects. Food is the resource...
The world hunger problem: Facts, figures and statistics

- In the Asian, African and Latin American countries, well over 500 million people are living in what the World Bank has called “absolute poverty”
- Every year 15 million children die of hunger
- For the price of one missile, a school full of hungry children could eat lunch every day for 5 years
- Throughout the 1990's more than 100 million children will die from illness and starvation. Those 100 million deaths could be prevented for the price of ten Stealth bombers, or what the world spends on its military in two days!
- The World Health Organization estimates that one-third of the world is well-fed, one-third is under-fed one-third is starving - Since you've entered this site at least 200 people have died of starvation. Over 4 million will die this year.
- One in twelve people worldwide is malnourished, including 160 million children under the age of 5. United Nations Food and Agriculture
- The Indian subcontinent has nearly half the world's hungry people. Africa and the rest of Asia together have approximately 40%, and the remaining hungry people are found in Latin America and other parts of the world. Hunger in Global Economy
- Nearly one in four people, 1.3 billion - a majority of humanity - live on less than $1 per day, while the world's 358 billionaires have assets exceeding the combined annual incomes of countries with 45 percent of the world's people. UNICEF
- 3 billion people in the world today struggle to survive on US$2/day.
- In 1994 the Urban Institute in Washington DC estimated that one out of 6 elderly people in the U.S. has an inadequate diet.
- In the U.S. hunger and race are related. In 1991 46% of African-American children were chronically hungry, and 40% of Latino children were chronically hungry compared to 16% of white children.
- The infant mortality rate is closely linked to inadequate nutrition among pregnant women. The U.S. ranks 23rd among industrial nations in infant mortality. African-American infants die at nearly twice the rate of white infants.
- One out of every eight children under the age of twelve in the U.S. goes to bed hungry every night.
- Half of all children under five years of age in South Asia and one third of those in sub-Saharan Africa are malnourished.
- In 1997 alone, the lives of at least 300,000 young children were saved by vitamin A supplementation programmes in developing countries.
- Malnutrition is implicated in more than half of all child deaths worldwide - a proportion unmatched by any infectious disease since the Black Death
- About 183 million children weigh less than they should for their age
- To satisfy the world's sanitation and food requirements would cost only US$13 billion- what the people of the United States and the European Union spend on perfume each year.
- The assets of the world's three richest men are more than the combined GNP of all the least developed countries on the planet.
- Every 3.6 seconds someone dies of hunger
- It is estimated that some 800 million people in the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition, about 100 times as many as those who actually die from it each year.

Reference: http://library.thinkquest.org
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