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Nevada Reading Week

March 2-6 2009

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We will celebrate Nevada Reading Week March 2-6, 2009. This year's theme is, "Discover the Mysteries of the World: Read". There are hundreds of activities that your school can include in planning for this week. Below are some of those ideas from educators around the nation. Happy reading!

Around the World in Eighty Books

Source: *The RIF Guide to Encouraging Young Readers.*

Ages: 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, 13+

Summary: Reading can make globe-trotters of your children or send them on a cross-country trek. Charting their travels on a real map will help them visualize where stories actually take place and help them understand how geography influences people and cultures.

AGES: Beginning readers, older readers

MATERIALS: World map or map of the United States, map tacks or thumbtacks with colored heads, felt-tip pen

Ask the librarian to recommend an age-appropriate reading itinerary. The list of recommendations may take readers to the Scottish Highlands (*Lassie Come Home*), Australia (*Storm Boy*), and the South Seas (*Call It Courage*) as they zigzag around the globe. Or children may tour the United States, starting on the East Coast (*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*) and working their way west (*The Long Journey*).

Hang a world map or a map of the United States on the wall. After finishing a book, the child pinpoints the location (the main setting) on the map with a map tack or thumbtack, and draws a line from the pin out to the margin, where the child writes in the title and author of the book.

Keep the map hanging as long as your children are interested in logging their book travels. They can travel together by reading the same books, or each reader can venture on his or her own.

Your children can send postcards requesting more information about their international destinations to the embassies (in Washington, D.C.) of the countries they're reading about. For information about various cities and towns in the United States, they can write to the local Chamber of Commerce. Most organizations are happy to send free materials. **AGES:** Beginning readers, older readers

Around the World Reading Activities for Nevada Reading Week

Where in the World? Give each student a United States or a world map. (Let students select the one they would prefer.) Each time a student reads a book that relates in some way to a state or country, he/she may color that state or country on the map. The relationship may be based on the following: (1) the author was born there; (2) the setting for the book is there; (3) the story began there; (4) it is a book telling about the state or country. The student who colors the most states or countries is the winner and receives a reward, such as an inexpensive atlas or map.

Posters, Posters, Everywhere! Decorate your room with travel posters. You can also group your students and have them draw a mural about different topics for each country and display them down the hall. Some ideas for murals include food, landmarks, history, and language. You can also create or purchase a country flag to display.

"Look Who's Traveling Through . . ." Have a sign saying, "Look Who's Traveling Through ---_ Grade" and have the students make their own suitcases. Students can decorate their suitcases with information about themselves. They can draw pictures of themselves with their family, list their favorite food, favorite sport or game, pets, and any other activity they like to do. You can have one already completed with information about yourself as an example for the students. The luggage tag on the suitcase then has the student's name on it. These suitcases can then go up on a bulletin board or in the hallway.

Once Upon a Time... Remember that there are many myths, legends, folktales, fairytales, and stories that are centered around different parts of the world. Share that literature with your students.

Bookmarks Galore! Using an "Around the World" theme, print blank bookmarks on cardstock. Using these templates, children can design their own bookmark. Winners will be chosen from each grade level. Winning bookmarks are copied, printed and laminated to hand out.

Take Me Away! Out of a list of possible countries, the Student of the Week can be the Pilot and choose where she wants the class to go . Students can have passports with their picture. Each page in the passport is dedicated to a different country, and students have to write the things they learned about each country as part of the end of each unit, before getting an official stamp. The stamp can be anything simple that you pick up from a craft store. Extend the theme by reading books about the chosen country and preparing a special snack from each country. You can also learn about their weather and traditions. Lastly, take pictures of the students learning about each country, and make a scrapbook page about the student's travels throughout the year. At the end of the week you will have a whole scrapbook of the class's travels around the world.

Worldly Race! Have a reading contest (race), around the world. As each class comes closer to their goal (may be pages, books, minutes of reading) move a marker on a huge bulletin board of the world. Each class that meets their goal will get to take part in a party in the library. Have food from around the world and watch an educational video. In addition, teachers are focusing on world studies, languages, etc.

Door Design Each class decorates their door with a different "Around the World" theme. A prize could be given at the end of the week to a first, second, and third place winner or a winner at each grade level.

I Love To Read Activities

for Nevada Reading Week

READ posters-Teachers make their own READ posters. Students can make posters individually or in groups. Posters should encourage reading.

Guess who?-Another teacher poster project. Take pictures of teachers holding their favorite books as if they were reading them with only their eyes showing. Children have to identify each teacher. Provide a sheet with all the teachers' names on it, and ask students to match the names to the picture numbers. At the end of the week, post new pictures with the books pulled down, showing the teachers' faces.

Read One Hundred Stories-This is a fun theme. Classes can see if they can read one hundred stories in a week. You can make a bulletin board or display with paper as blocks to make a hundred story building.

Snippets-Have fifth graders each read a snippet over the intercom each morning. One snippet is for PreK-2 and the other is 3-5. It should be just a few sentences from a popular book and must include the main character's name. Children can guess the title of the book. One winner is chosen for each group per day. Rewards are either leftover bookfair books or a coupon to check out additional books.

Guest Readers-Ask the principal, director, other teachers, older students, parents, and community members.

Read to Parents-At the beginning of the week, send a form home to parents stating that if their child reads aloud to them (or parents read aloud to student) for 15 minutes every night, he will receive a prize at the end of the week. Parents must sign and return the form to school. Use new books as prizes.

Read to the Principal-Invite the principal to come and listen to your students read.

Door Design-each class designs/decorates their classroom door for favorite book or character.

Poem-in-the-Pocket Day-All the classes read and write poetry in the weeks ahead of the event. This allows the librarian to work collaboratively with classroom teachers on lessons and units related to poetry, figurative language, using sensory images to comprehend texts, and more. Then, each student transcribes a poem of his/her own making or a favorite published poem onto a large index card. On the day of the event, every adult in the building and parent volunteers are given a 100 or so teeny, tiny stickers. Throughout the day, students, carrying their poems in their pockets, would ask an adult? "Would you like to hear the poem in my pocket?" After reading/reciting the poem, the adult places a sticker on the back of the student's index card.

D.E.A.R-Drop Everything and Read-Implement a school-wide Drop Everything And Read time.

READ-IN-Students bring a pillow, stuffed animal, blanket, etc. and their favorite books on a set day and the students and teacher spend the entire literacy block reading in a comfy, cozy atmosphere. Invite parents, etc. to come in and read their favorite stories as well.

Charity Book Sale or Book Exchange-Collect used books for elementary students and adults and then have a big book sale. Proceeds go to charity.

Culminating Event-Have a school-wide favorite character parade & dress up as favorite character.

For more great reading lessons/activities/ideas for an "Around the World" theme, check out these websites:

www.literatureplace.com-Magellan activities

www.books.google.com-Folktale plays from around the world

www.funlessonplans.com-Literature Circle lesson plans for around the world

www.store.atozteacherstuff.com/download-now/atoz_spanishpack.html-printable Spanish mini-books for emergent readers