



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATIONAL ITEM

TOPIC: 6th Grade Social Studies (PenPal Schools Pilot)

SUBMITTED BY: David Canales, Executive Director for Middle School Instruction

OF: Curriculum & Instruction Department

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: September 17, 2019

INFORMATIONAL REPORT:

Middle schools will be participating in a pilot with PenPal Schools for 6th-grade social studies from September to December 2019. PenPal Schools is a global project-based learning community that connects students from over 150 countries so they can learn and collaborate on online projects. Students learn about world cultures and share perspectives on issues facing the world today, such as human rights and environmental sustainability, all while utilizing essential reading, writing, technology, and social-emotional skills. Furthermore, it allows students to practice 21st-century skills (creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking). After the completion of the pilot, schools will have the option to consider purchasing a subscription to continue use for the duration of the school year.



Social Studies Pen-Pal World Initiative

By David R. Canales

Pilot

- Embracing I-GEN learning styles to promote reading and writing in 6th Grade Social Studies on topics that support our curriculum.

Pilot

- No Cost to the District
- September-December
- Interaction with 150 Countries
- Reinforcing 21st Century Skills (Soft Skills)
- <https://www.penpalworld.com/>

21st Century skills

1. Critical thinking
2. Creativity
3. Collaboration
4. Communication
5. Information literacy
6. Media literacy
7. Technology literacy
8. Flexibility
9. Leadership
10. Initiative
11. Productivity
12. Social skills



21ST CENTURY SKILLS

HOW TODAY'S STUDENTS
CAN STAY COMPETITIVE
IN A CHANGING JOB MARKET

Learning Skills

Critical Thinking



Creativity



Collaboration



Communication



Literacy Skills

Information



Media



Technology



Life Skills

Flexibility



Leadership



Initiative



Productivity



Social



Sample Lesson

Immigration in the 21st Century

PREVIEW

The Immigration in the 21st Century topic connects students ages 12 through 18 to learn how immigration affects people and communities around the world. Students choose from multiple project options and share their work with the PenPal Schools global community. To help students create their projects, each collaborates with peers from around the world through a series of online lessons.

Essential Question

How does immigration affect my community and communities around the world?

Project Options

Students work individually or in teams to create original work that they'll share in the PenPal Schools Showcase

- **Share an Immigrant Story** Students interview an immigrant or a person who works with immigrant communities
- **Educate Your Community** Students design a poster or presentation that answers a central question about immigration
- **Create an Immigrant Hall of Fame** Students research famous immigrants who have had a positive impact on their community
- **Your Immigration Family Tree** Students analyze their family history and share any immigrant stories that they find
- **Write Immigration Policy** Students research immigration policy in their own country before highlighting policy that they agree with and policy that they would change
- **Design Your Own Project** Students can design their own project inspired by work in the PenPal Schools Showcase



Sample Lesson

Guiding Lesson

To help students create their projects, they will complete one collaborative lesson. The lesson includes an informational video, text, and a comprehension question to guide discussions with students around the world.

- Immigration in the 21st Century

Skills & Standards

Teachers can review all student work and use [built-in assessment links](#) to a [top student learning with academic standards](#). This paper supports mastery in the following skills:

 **Reading Comprehension**
Supports Claims, Summarization, Vocabulary

 **Writing**
Spelling, Grammar Punctuation

 **Technology Skills**
Digital Citizenship, Digital Literacy, Informational Fluency

 **Social & Emotional Skills**
Collaboration, Empathy, Civility

 **Participation**
Responsiveness, Time Management



Sample Lesson

PenPal
SCHOOLS



61 Answers Sent

21 Comments Received

2 Projects Created

17 Reviews Received



Awesome
Answers



Funny



Creative



Inspiring



Personal



Useful



Asks
Questions



Paragraphs



Great
Grammar



Super
Spelling

TEACHERS

Marco Reyna

Verified

WRITE TEACHERS

RESOURCES

▶ Watch a short video overview of PenPal Schools

▶ See a map of participating schools

📄 Read how students improve literacy, digital citizenship, & social-emotional skills

✓ See how PenPal Schools aligns with a wide variety of academic standards

👤 Explore topics for all ages and subjects

STUDENT WORK

Marco Reyna

Immigration in the 21st Century

View Student Projects



In Immigration in the 21st Century, students create original projects that explore how immigration affects communities around the world. Students might choose to share an immigrant's story, highlight how immigrants have had an impact on their community, write immigration government policy, or research their family's history with immigration.

To help create their projects, students work with peers around the world in standards-aligned collaborative lessons. Here are some of your students' answers:

Jacqueine R
7X, United States
4 months ago

view question

In my country people from another country come here in my country for a better life and a better job. And so they can save money. We have made people to take care of you kids. And I live right next to the border.

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Josue U
7X, United States
4 months ago

view question

What is immigration? Well, immigration are people who move country to look for a better life or future. Some immigrants come to be made or to earn money. They come to get good education and to be good at something. People sometimes want to come here by breaking law. So immigrants come to Texas to get a better life.

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Sample Lesson



Onesimo B
TX, United States
4 months ago

hide question ▾

Where do immigrants in your community come from? What challenges do immigrants face before and after they arrive in your community?

They do what work that we don't want to do. Since I live right by the border we usually see them in rich peoples houses. They cut the grass, clean the house, babysit their kids and other stuff. And they do it for pay



Alejandro G
TX, United States
4 months ago

hide question ▾

Where do immigrants in your community come from? What challenges do immigrants face before and after they arrive in your community?

They do jobs other people don't wanna do. Like be a maid, clean dishes, picking up your pet's droppings, and babysit your children. They do these jobs for one reason... MONEY. Immigrants need money after crossing over the border.



Mia M
TX, United States
4 months ago

hide question ▾

What impact do immigrants have on your community?

They work, they work as maids, they sometimes would be force to work, some of them came to my country to have better jobs and to have better education. I live right next to the border of Mexico. Some in my country came from Mexico.



Eduardo F
TX, United States
4 months ago

hide question ▾

Where do immigrants in your community come from? What challenges do immigrants face before and after they arrive in your community?

Mexicans and they had to have a card to pass through America or else they wouldn't be able to pass through and the reason they wanted to pass through is because they wanted a better education for the family

