

MONDOPENCIL



cultural
planet

MONDOPENCIL PROJECT
ASSOCIATION CULTURAL PLANET



This activity is part of our RECmundo project

This activity is part of our RECmundo Project which was a documented trip through various countries in Asia, Oceania and Europe, providing children in different places with the necessary resources to discover the reality of their everyday lives. To achieve this, the children recorded some days in their lives with a video camera, without adult intervention and in complete freedom. Afterwards, we did an interview with them so that together with the videos they have made we created the audiovisual material.

Then, we got children from the different countries visited in touch by means of letters written by the children themselves, which is the goal of **Mondopencil**.





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Developer

Who will carry out the initiative?

The Cultural Planet association Voces de la Infancia (Childhood Voices in English) is a non-profit organization whose aim is discover and present cultural features found in different places around the world. Its objective is to promote mutual knowledge and break down the barriers that cause ignorance and fear by discovering not only different ways of life, but also necessities and desires which are, without a doubt, shared.

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Objectives

- Improve knowledge of the geographical setting in which other cultures are found as well as their customs, educational and social reality, gastronomy, etc.
- Foster respect and tolerance towards different ways of living and values
- Break down prejudices about other people and places in the world which have been acquired during childhood
- Encourage interest in learning foreign languages – children will see and experience just how useful they are as a tool for communicating with other people.
- Offer tools to schools for them to develop international correspondence as an educational activity

Target Groups

Aimed at school-aged boys and girls. Voluntary collaboration of teaching staff offering to coordinate the activity will be essential.

The children's ages may vary between:

- PRIMARY: from 8 to 12 year- olds.
- SECONDARY: from 12 to 15 year-olds.





Correspondence part I

Correspondence will be carried out in the following way:

The tasks that the teaching staff must carry out so as to develop the project with their pupils are listed below:

a. The teacher has to sign up in <http://www.mondopencil.org>.

Once you have signed up, join the correspondent group by age and make the announcement.

b. We kindly ask all the announcements to follow a similar model, so the communication can be carried out faster. Example: Hello, my name is XXX, and the school I work for is in Madrid, Spain. I have a class with 15 students that are interested in exchanging letters with children of other countries, specially in Asia.

c. You will be able to see the announcements of other teachers and answer. Also, through the filters, you can look for teachers in the countries where you have mor insterest.

e. Once the teachers get in touch between them, the communication needs to be carried out by other means of communication, outside of the network.





Correspondence II

Recommendations to develop the activity.

In principle, **we recommend developing the project in language classes (English or French)** to overcome possible language barriers. Nevertheless, no teacher who is interested will be excluded from participating. It will be important to do at least, 2 or 3 exchanges during the course.

As the number of children/senders with recipients will not always coincide, some of these will have to write more than one letter or they will be done in pairs, whatever is deemed more appropriate .That is, if one class has 20 pupils and another 26, how would the correspondence be carried out? Well, some of the pupils in the first class will have to write two letters. In this case the teacher will photocopy some letters and 6 pupils (in this specific case) will have to write two letters and be in contact with two pupils from the second class.

Once you have all the letters, they will be sent in a package. They can be sent to the school or to the teacher's address, the teachers can decide between them.





Correspondence III

The schools with greater financial resources may encourage those with scarce funding to participate in the scheme by providing international stamps, envelopes or international reply coupons. In this way no school will be excluded from the interchange on economic grounds.

Some pupils may wish to include a gift in their letters, but we would advise them against doing so. Some simple items such as photographs, postcards, drawings or bookmarks are acceptable, but nothing else, as, if some pupils receive but others don't, jealousy or even petty theft may arise, especially in schools with fewer resources.

Under no circumstances will sending money be allowed if the correspondence is with a school with few resources.





Timing

As school calendars vary in different countries, correspondence must take place in term time for both groups. This may continue in the following year after the holidays.

It would be a good idea for the teachers to correspond by email in order to organize the frequency of the interchange: they could start by deciding how often to send letters each school year (the minimum, as stated before, would be two or three times, but the final decision can be changed).

Evaluation

1.- Forums will be created so all the teachers can stay in touch, share news , and so, have a feedback from all the participants schools.

2.- At the end of the school year, and the periods set among the schools for developing the activity, the teacher in charge will write a brief report, which will be sent to Cultural Planet by letter or mail (according to the teachers' requests) which may be responded to in the same way.

