

SCHOOL SUPPLY BACKPACKS

Primary Content Area: French I

Introduction

A service project is a great way to teach new vocabulary to World Language students. This project is meant to provide a service-learning supplement to a School/Classroom Objects vocabulary unit in a beginner to intermediate French class. The service project involves three steps: (1) Teach vocabulary related to school/classroom objects as you would normally do; (2) Supplement your lessons with activities and authentic resources (shopping for school supplies on www.monoprix.fr) provided below; and (3) Complete a school supplies drive or fundraiser at your school.

Project Goals

- Students will be able to describe and use vocabulary pertaining to school/classroom objects.
- Students will gain awareness of a French-speaking nation and will work together to solve a problem.
- Students will provide a partner school in a French-speaking nation with important classroom supplies and materials.
- Students will reflect upon their experience

Procedure/Project Sequence

1. Introduce school and classroom vocabulary as you normally would.
2. Create a web quest using online shopping sites for office supplies in target language country.
3. Have students brainstorm a list of supplies needed in target country.
4. Choose between service project options listed below:

Service Option 1

- Create backpacks to send to other countries. Determine how many backpacks to create.
- Plan and organize the drive for supplies. Be sure to designate who will complete the various parts of the project including collection, publicity, and organizing backpacks to be sure that everyone has a role.
- Collect and organize supplies, then compile and ship backpacks. Building with Books (see organizational information below) may collect and ship backpacks overseas.
- Have students draft letters to send to businesses, travel agencies, consulate or embassy offices to request donations to cover shipping costs. Invite representatives from these agencies to speak to your classes.
- Write letters in target language to the students receiving the backpacks, and include copies in the backpacks.

Service Option 2

- Participate in UNICEF's Trick or Treat for UNICEF program. Contact UNICEF to send trick or treat boxes and to come in to speak to your students.
- Send students out to trick or treat for money for UNICEF's School in a Box program.
- Collect funds and send in to UNICEF's School in a Box Program.
- Complete other fundraising activities within school such as out of uniform day, using trick or treat boxes at lunch or around school.

Post project reflections

1. Write a one-page reflection in English and list new and old vocabulary in target language. Include what worked and didn't work.
2. Draw a picture of supplies in the backpack, and label the supplies in the target language.
3. Evaluate the project upon completion of the project. What did the students learn about the target country? What did the students learn about their peers from that country? Was a relationship established between your students and the students who received the backpacks?
4. Discuss the service experience as a class. Was the project an effective way to learn new vocabulary? Was the project an effective way to learn about students in a different country?

Community Partners/Resources

Building with Books

230 West Monroe, Suite 220

Chicago, IL 60606

Phone: (312) 288-0734

www.buildingwithbooks.org

UNICEF - Midwest Chapter

500 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1000

Chicago, Illinois 60611

312/222-8900 x 12

<http://www.unicefusa.org/site/pp.asp?c=hkIXLdMRJtE&b=1706865>

Websites:

www.monoprix.fr – French store online for school supplies, click on “*Maison & Loisirs*,” then *Accessoires*

www.espanol.officedepot.com – Office Depot website in Spanish

<http://www.buildingwithbooks.org> – Service agency that builds schools in Africa, Central America, and Asia and can ship supplies to target country.

Embassies and consulate offices for the chosen country may provide shipping of supplies to target country.

Video Resources:

Scenes from *La rue casse-nègres*, 400 Coups, *Au revoir les enfants*

Discovery series videos- *A day in the life of a student from Haiti*

Addendum

Standards

This project addresses the following Illinois Learning Standards for World Languages:

- 28.D.1b: Describe people, activities and objects from school and home.
- 30.A.1a: Recognize the currency of the country where the target language is spoken and compare values with United States currency.

Hours Recommendation

Students who complete the entire project should be awarded between 7-10 service-learning hours depending on how much time they spent preparing backpacks for shipment overseas. Hours can be broken down into the following categories:

Preparation: Vocabulary study/Web quest – 2-3 hours

Action: Conduct supplies drive/Backpack preparation and shipping – 4-6 hours

Reflection: Writing/Discussion – 1-2 hours

Cross-Curricular Connections

Connections with World Studies (economics of chosen country) and Math (currency conversion, tax calculation to find total cost) could be made during this project.