



West Virginia 4-H Clubs Monthly Program Guide

Appendix – International Activities

Camping

Something simple to do is to highlight the Native American culture—languages, homes, dress, etc.,—then and now.

Communication

In our culture, people who communicate/talk more are often perceived by others as more intelligent, leaders, credible sources, and even more powerful. However, quiet people are more respected in some other cultures such as Japan. How would these differences impact you if you were going to school in Japan? How would it impact someone from Japan attending school here?

There are differences in interpretation of nonverbal cues.

If people interpret meanings differently, how does that affect those who are learning/speaking a second language?

Should a second language be mandatory in today’s schools? Should English proficiency be a mandatory requirement for high school graduation in the United States?

4-H History and Trivia

Read the latest IFYE newsletter to the 4-H club members. Have someone bring a globe to the meeting to locate the host country.

Links to WVU

This month we will be looking at the country of Russia. Formerly known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) under the communists, Russia is now a free country with elected leaders. With the collapse of communism, the economy has struggled to make the transition to a free-market economy. Life in Russia has been difficult, and many of things we take for granted are difficult for people in Russia.

We have learned a great deal about Russia through a youth exchange between the West Virginia 4-H program and the schools in the city of Korolev, near Moscow. We have hosted young people from Russia in West Virginia on several occasions, and three groups from West Virginia have traveled to Russia to spend time with our friends there. The school system in Russia is different from our system in that many young people will attend more than one school as they get older. They may attend their local school for half of the day and then walk to a specialized school for the rest of the day. Specialized schools may focus on art, computers, drama, dance, and advanced studies in math and science, to name a few.

In the city we visit, Korolev, children walk to school as do most adults going to work. Almost everyone in the city lives in apartment buildings that have 9 or 10 floors; perhaps more than 500 people live in one apartment complex. Most children study English in school, and many of the children in Russia can speak it. They like the same things our children do—popular music, toys like Legos and Game Boys, and getting together with their friends to talk, dance, and have fun.

Many of the people who live in Korolev work in the space program, since Korolev is home to the Space Flight Control Center for Russia. The space flights are launched from another area of the old USSR, which is now located in another country. Cooperation in the space program between Russia and the United States has led to many other opportunities for us to work together, such as our youth exchange.

If you would like to learn more about Russia and the exchange, the Dorsey Resource Center has a slide show put together by the youths who traveled to Russia in January 1998.

We began our exchange with a focus on the differences between our two countries. After spending time with each other, we realize how very much alike we are.