

# REEP LESSON PLAN FORM

TEACHER'S NAME: Emily Beckett

REEP LEVEL(s): 500

LIFESKILLS UNIT: U.S. Education

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to compare the organization and practices of the U.S. education system with the education system in their home country. Students will use topic-specific vocabulary to report descriptive information both orally and in writing. Students will interpret data in a graph or table format. Students will scan a text for specific information.

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION (if any): N/A

LANGUAGE SKILLS TARGETED IN THIS LESSON (X all that apply):

Speaking     Listening     Reading     Writing

ESTIMATED TIME: 3-4 hours

RESOURCES AND MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Wikipedia entry for Education in the United States
- Tennis ball or similar
- **included in this file:**
  - Education Around the World Information Grid
  - Education Comparison Chart
  - Education Comparatives Worksheet

## LESSON PLAN AND TEACHER'S NOTES

### Motivation/Background Building:

Students complete an information grid about schools in their home country. When finished, ask students to report back on the information they collected from one person. Discuss the information as a class. Choose a country or region where the majority of students are from. Fill out the Education Comparison Chart for that country as a class.

### Presentation #1:

Tell students they are going to find the answers to the information grid questions for schools in the United States. Put students into groups of 2 or 3 and ask each group to find the answer for one question using the Wikipedia entry on Education in the United States.

### Practice #1:

Students scan Wikipedia article for specific information to answer their question and take notes. Students report back and the class completes the Education Comparison Chart.

## **Presentation #2:**

Review the chart and elicit adjectives for the different categories (i.e. for cost of school try to elicit “expensive” “inexpensive” “cheap”). Present/review rules for comparatives using these adjectives.

## **Practice #2:**

- A. Students complete Education Comparatives Worksheet. Have students who finish early write additional sentences using different adjectives.
- B. Comparative Ball Toss Game
  - In small groups, have students generate lists of adjectives related to school and education. Ask the groups to write their adjectives on the board. Review as a class and erase any duplicates. Ask students to form a circle. One student starts with the ball, says an adjective and throws to another student. The student who catches the ball says the comparative form and throws to a different student. Repeat with new adjective.
- C. Have students go back to the Wikipedia article and read completely. Follow with oral comprehension questions and class discussion about notable features of U.S. education system.

## **Application and Evaluation:**

Write comparative sentences about education in students’ home country and education in the United States.

## **Extension Activities for the Classroom and Beyond:**

- Write a paragraph comparing/contrasting the education system in the U.S. and home country. Draft, edit, and revise.
- Give a brief oral presentation on the differences between education systems.
- Reading and activities in:  
Levine, D.R., and Adelman, M.B. (1993). *Beyond language: Cross-cultural communication 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall Regents. Unit 7, Education: Values and Expectations

# Education Around the World

*Talk to 4 classmates. Ask them the following questions and write down what they say.*

<b>Name</b>				
<b>Country</b>				
<b>Do all children go to school in your country?</b> <b>Is school free?</b>				
<b>When do children begin school?</b> <b>For how many years do children usually go to school?</b>				
<b>How are schools organized?</b> <b>Do children of different ages study in different buildings?</b>				
<b>How many months do children go to school each year?</b> <b>Which months?</b>				
<b>Are parents involved in their children's education? How?</b>				

# Education Comparison Chart

Education in \_\_\_\_\_ vs. Education in the U.S.

		United States
All children attend school?		
Cost of school		
Age to start school		
Typical # of years in school		
Organization of schools		
Length of school year		
Parental involvement		

## Education Comparatives Worksheet

*Read the sentences about two countries<sup>1</sup>. Write one sentence comparing the countries.*

1. The length of compulsory education in Angola is six years.  
The length of compulsory education in the United States is thirteen years.
2. Denmark spends 8.74% of its GDP on education.  
The United States spends 5.62% of its GDP on education.
3. The literacy rate of the United States is 99%.  
The literacy rate of India is 59.5%.
4. In Iceland, 73% of nine year old students have a computer at home.  
In the United States, 51% of nine year old students have a computer at home.
5. In Hungary, teachers are 6.2% of the total labor force.  
In the United States, teachers are 4.2% of the total labor force.

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<sup>1</sup> Education statistics taken from NationMaster.com on August 8, 2016. You can get updated statistics on this site.