



CENTER FOR INTERACTIVE
LEARNING & COLLABORATION

EXPANDING BOUNDARIES. CHANGING LIVES.



Read Around the Planet 2024 Virtual Exchange Activities

Getting to Know Your RAP Partner

The only way for Read Around the Planet activities to be successful is through planning an interactive collaboration with your partner that was matched by the Center of Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) based on submitted registration forms.

Get to Know Your Read Around the Planet Collaborative Partner by Covering These Topics:

- ✦ Basic details like their community, timezone, contact info, schedule, etc.
- ✦ Literacy topics, activities, and resources used by each group of learners
- ✦ Digital engagements to use during the Read Around the Planet event
- ✦ One-year [Cisco Webex license](#) with full capabilities (unless you already have)

Read Around the Planet partners should plan at least two meetings prior to the live virtual exchange. It is suggested the first meeting is focused on planning the collaborative event and the second is a test call conducted in the same physical and virtual location RAP will occur.

Preparing an Intro RAP:

- ✦ Learners should prepare a simple introduction of themselves and their communities

Identification: Who are you?

Name your school, class, teacher, mascot, etc.

Location: Where are you located?

Explain your location with words, maps, sport teams, etc.

Quick FAQs: What make your unique?

Include a fun fact about your class, school, community, city, etc.

All groups should prepare a **2-3 minute introduction** that is either introduced then played or facilitated live as a way to begin the Read Around the Planet live virtual exchange.



Are you seeking help looking for RAP Activities? Not to worry, check out the CILC lessons on the following page that are aligned with 21st century, ISTE, & national standards. If you have any additional question connect with us at info@cilc.org

***Disclaimer.** While we are using the term 'planet' in the name of this event to be inclusive, this does NOT guarantee schools an international connection. Groups will be matched randomly based on project criteria and geographical locations submitted during the registration process.

Preparing RAP Presentation & Activities

Planning for Read Around the Planet takes teamwork, use this as a tool to work with your partner.

DISCOVERING CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

Start brainstorming with your collaborative partners by discussing the following topics:

- ★ Curricular Themes
- ★ Reading or Writing Activities
- ★ Necessary Materials
- ★ Vocabulary
- ★ Literature or Poetry Excerpts
- ★ Engagement Tools

THE POWER OF USING VISUALS IN VIDEO CALLS

When working with multiple classes via video call, visual prompts are a helpful tool in collaborations!

Brainstorm: *What visuals should be used to enhance engagement during the live virtual exchange?*

With your partner, discuss if it is necessary to include...

- ★ Directional slides to be shared at the beginning of the activity?
- ★ Ways the classes will creatively introduce themselves?
- ★ Pictures, videos, or audio that can enhance the RAP presentation?
- ★ Opportunities for learners to get hands on by making: backdrops, props, dual cameras, costumes, communication symbols, etc?

RECYCLE RAP ACTIVITIES TO MAKE YOUR OWN

If you need help getting started with Read Around the Planet, the following activities have been successfully used in the past by participating educators.

Read Around the Planet Literary Activities

- ★ Perform Skits or Plays
- ★ Writing Songs or Raps
- ★ Design and Share Posters
- ★ Reading Excerpts or Poetry
- ★ Poetry Slam
- ★ Literacy Game-Shows
- ★ True or False
- ★ Create a Collaborative Book
- ★ Inquiry Interactives
- ★ Dress & Guess the Character
- ★ Read Aloud with Translations
- ★ Community MadLibs
- ★ Community ShareOuts

CULTIVATING ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN PEERS

Read Around the Planet is designed to be an interactive virtual exchange between two groups of learners.

Brainstorm *How can we encourage engagements and balance interactions between groups?*

With your partner, discuss the best ways to have students interact...

- ★ How can students prepare to ask questions that prompt a longer response?
- ★ Can motions be used during games (ex-touch shoulder for true & nose for false)?
- ★ Are there prompts for learners to engage (slide, symbol, motion, etc.)?
- ★ What is the best way to have students share and speak with peers?

SPECIAL NOTES FOR LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Due to registration numbers, it is common for language learners to differ in ages. These cross grade level collaborations have been powerful for **students to learn from as they act out skits, translate books, play language games, and more!** If you are interested in more language resources contact info@cilc.org.

****We suggest bringing this to your planning meeting to brainstorm if one works with your partner!****

Virtual Visit Resources

Prepare your students before, during, and after the virtual exchange event by using different tools that assist peer groups in communicating with one another virtually.



✦ Important Reminders:

- Review Digital Decorum for Live Virtual Visit
- Literacy Experts & Lessons Linked on Page 4-6
- Download or review [Teacher Packet](#) here

RAP Project Pro-Tips

Based on feedback from past participants, CILC offers these promising practices in supporting you in hosting a successful virtual exchange for their learners in your school and at a distance.

Preparation: It is important to prepare students to engage in a virtual learning environment by making sure to **review digital decorum, work with them to create conversation prompts, complete any activity materials**, and more prior to the event.

Engagement: It is important to consider how **all learners can be involved in the collaboration experience. We suggest assigning learners roles for the event, setting the room so all are seen, mic is centered in space, check all props and visuals are readable!**

Questioning: For learners to get the most out of asking questions we suggest having them **prepare questions as a class in advance, show inquiry examples, consider offering effective information before asking questions, allow time for response** during video call.

Extending: Many groups continue to work with their collaborative partners **by writing thank you notes, becoming Pen Pals, sending pictures or gifts that represent discussion from their virtual exchange, conducting other live virtual visits about literacy**, and more.

Rescheduling: While we stress commitment to RAP, we understand life, or technology, can happen. We suggest that **matched educators plan a back-up date and also identify the contact information for an alternative contact** should a complication occur.

Celebrate and Share



Read Around the Planet is a special Virtual Exchange Event and we encourage you to **share about your experience with the guardians of your learners, school, community, and media outlets**. If you are interested in celebrating your participation on social media we invite you to using the **hashtags #RAP and #CILC** when posting about your virtual exchange! ✦

Virtual Visit Lessons

To help educators get started planning an activity for their Read Around the Planet Virtual Exchange Event resource **links have been compiled to offer educators a variety of reading experts, writing projects, different literacy games, and book activity guides** that are all able to be downloaded for FREE!



LOWER ELEMENTARY READING ACTIVITIES

Use links to access reading experts and use handout on **page 5** to help learners take notes on reading

- ★ [Animal Senses](#)
- ★ [Backyard Birding](#)
- ★ [Birds & ELA Questions](#)
- ★ [Cultural Traditions](#)
- ★ [Getting to Know Brazil](#)
- ★ [Junior Astronauts](#)
- ★ [Monarch Butterflies](#)
- ★ [Reptile Revelation](#)
- ★ [Life Cycle of Sea Turtle](#)

UPPER ELEMENTARY READING ACTIVITIES

Select the reading excerpt of your choice then have learners use the note taking handout on **page 6**.

- ★ [Africa & Biodiversity](#)
- ★ [Fantasy Bird](#)
- ★ [Discovering Dinosaurs](#)
- ★ [Dynamic Glacier 101](#)
- ★ [Endangered Species](#)
- ★ [Get to Know Ben Franklin](#)
- ★ [Introduction to Australia](#)
- ★ [Historic Jamestown](#)
- ★ [Meet the Manatees](#)
- ★ [Solar System](#)
- ★ [Stewarts of the Sea](#)
- ★ [The Diverse West](#)
- ★ [Timber: Lumber Boom](#)
- ★ [What Was the Homestead Act?](#)
- ★ [Women in Baseball](#)

WRITING ACTIVITIES

Have students prepare and share something they wrote individually or as a class with these prompts.

- ★ [Animal Senses](#)
- ★ [Creative Captions](#)
- ★ [Dinosaurs](#)
- ★ [Fantasy Bird](#)
- ★ [Glacier Pottery](#)
- ★ [Great Ocean Voyage](#)
- ★ [Marine Mammals](#)
- ★ [Persuasive Writing](#)
- ★ [Science Field Journal](#)

CLASS BOOK ACTIVITY GUIDES

Use these links to have students collaborate on a class book they can all take home at the end!

- ★ [Class Reptile Storybook](#)
- ★ [My Habitat Book](#)
- ★ [Turtle Talks Activity Book](#)

VOCABULARY GAMES

If your learners get motivated by gaming, use these challenges in your RAP virtual exchange!

- ★ [Baseball Vocab](#)
- ★ [Dynamic Glaciers](#)
- ★ [Weather Word](#)



Read Around the Planet Standards build upon the **Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening Common Core Standards**. The Virtual Exchange Event is also designed to strengthen **critical thinking, global competencies, and digital literacy skills** that align with the **21st century and International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)** standards.



Name: _____



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CILC Reading 3-2-1 Note Tracker

Use this to record big facts, words, and ideas from the reading. Recommended for lower elementary.

3 New Facts I Learned

1.

2.

3.

2 Big Questions I Have

1.

2.

1 Picture I Drew

Name: _____



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webex
by CISCO

CILC Reading Note Tracker

Record information to help summarize the reading. Recommended for upper elementary students.

**List of
Keywords**

Vocabulary Necessary to Define

Overview of Main Points

Most Interesting Facts

Further Research Questions