

Picture (More) Perfect

Overview:

Children become more aware of global issues and imagine ways to make the world better.

Materials:

- Photos depicting global problems
- Paper, pencils, or pens
- Paste

Procedure:

1. Show the children photos of global problems from magazines or newspapers (e.g., famine-stricken regions; polluted beaches; property damage from floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, etc.)
2. Ask them to describe what they see. Say: *These are pictures from different parts of the world — different parts of our global community.*
3. Ask the children to define “community.” Explain that a community is a larger extension of a family. Ask: *What do we learn about our community from these photos? Can you think of things we could do to make these pictures look better?*
4. Suggest some answers (e.g., give money to groups working to end hunger, support disaster-relief efforts, take better care of our environment).
5. Ask: *What are some problems in our local community? Can you think of ways to solve them?*
6. Encourage the children to be aware of their surroundings when they go home during the week. Instruct them to take a picture of something that can be improved and make the world a better place.
7. Alternately, they might take (or draw) pictures of people who are doing something to improve the community. If children don’t have access to a camera, tell them to draw pictures.

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8. Have them bring their pictures to class and paste them on pieces of paper. Tell them to write “What people could do to make the community better” underneath their pictures.
9. Invite the students to share their pictures with the class.
10. Display the photos/drawings on a bulletin board with the heading: “Picture a More Perfect Community.”

Inspired by a contest idea sponsored by the public youth forum “To Make the World a Better Place” in *Hope* magazine (September/October 1998). To view images or participate in the forum, visit www.liska.com/betterplace.

This lesson is from the *Good Ideas* book, available for purchase from the CHARACTER COUNTS! online store: <http://www.charactercounts.org/store>

McREL standards

Geography

Standard 1. Understands and applies media, techniques, and processes related to the visual arts.

Level II, Benchmark 3. Knows how different media (e.g., oil, watercolor, stone, metal), techniques, and processes are used to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories.

<http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/>