

Activities

The activities have been created with the help of curriculum designers and middle school teachers and in accordance with *MCREL Standards and Benchmarks*. They are designed to enhance the student experience and offer a chance for students to use the concepts and ideas brought out in the program. The activities all have multidisciplinary components, but for your convenience, they have been divided into the areas of math, science, language arts and social studies. All activities are designed to support higher-order thinking skills, cooperative learning, cross-curricular studies, and student centered learning. Above all, the activities are intended to be fun, interesting, and challenging.

Take time to go through the activities before using them in class. Some activities require more teacher preparation and class time. Others require class field trips. Some activities will naturally work better as a culmination project. You are encouraged to use them at your discretion.

Each activity has three sections: Instructor Notes, Assessment, and Student Activity

- **Instructor Notes** help the you prepare for the activity. It will tell you how long the activity will take, and topics and keywords. Look to the *Objectives* for a list of learning outcomes. The *Teacher Notes for Discussion* have two types of information. They give information on the subject to help generate in class discussion. This section also gives information about the best way to conduct and prepare for the particular activity. For example: you may need to locate topographical maps.
- **Assessment** is a tool for you to communicate to the students specific and immediate feedback. The Assessment should be shown to the students prior to beginning the activity so that they know exactly what is expected of them. This helps students become self reliant, self directed, self assessing learners. You may want to tailor the rubrics to fit requirements of your class.
- **Student Activity** is intended to be photocopied and handed directly to the student. You will want to read through this section for a complete understanding of the activity. Mission introduces the topic and includes the purpose of the activity. This statement tells the student specifically what they will be able to do by the end of the activity. Study the Facts gives the student the information necessary to complete the activity. Learn the Lingo lists terms relevant to the content presented in the activity. Chart a Course for Exploration is the procedure for completing the activity. Each step describes what to do and asks the students to answer questions and make connections between their task and the overall goal. Gather Your Supplies lists materials and resources the student will need to complete the activity. Go Beyond provides further activities for the student. It emphasizes skills include researching, developing persuasive presentations, and using technology.