



Activities to Engage Students Before Travel



• COSTA RICA

Make your trip club meetings a success with one—or more—of these great activities!

Fact vs. Fiction

It is essential to help students select reliable sources on the internet about their destination. This activity helps students determine what they think they know about their travel destination versus reality. Create several topic cards about their travel destination from multiple sources that include facts and falsehoods (e.g. This destination's water cannot be consumed.) and distribute them to students. Ask students to sort them as fact or fiction, and then have them discuss each one. This can be done using a whiteboard, a flipchart, or even the wall. In addition to this activity, students could research to check the validity of the topics or come up with additional facts and falsehoods as a group to add to the list.

#Discover Your Destination

Harness the power of social media by encouraging students to research a destination or specific location that they may see on their trip by searching hashtags on their favorite social media site. By searching using a hashtag, students will be able to learn more about what they might see on their travel program. Encourage students to consider what people have tagged with a hashtag; it might give insight into various perspectives and help them think about what it means to be a local versus a tourist. As a bonus, students can think about how hashtags can represent the personality of the location and why someone might have used it. #worldstrides

Lights, Camera, Itinerary!

Spark your students' imagination and creative thinking by having them personify the sites on their itinerary. Students can select a site they want to learn more about or draw sites randomly out of a hat. Once the sites are assigned, ask your students to imagine – if this itinerary site were a person, how would it behave? Students can act out how the site might behave in different situations and challenge their classmates to guess which site they have chosen. The purpose of this activity is to allow students to create stories around the itinerary sites and think about the sites in a new way. Engaging with the itinerary in this way will make each site even more meaningful when your students visit in person!

Talk the Talk

There are always words or phrases that are unique to a specific area or country. Having students learn some of these phrases related to their travel program will help them make important connections before they travel! Ask students to find a word or phrase unique to their destination and write them down. When they have given you their words or phrases, show them to students and have them guess what they think they mean. See who can figure out the most! Encourage students to actively listen for these words and phrases when they travel!

Ready, Set, Pack!

Asking your students to generate a packing list will help them learn about their destination, engage them in creative thinking, and get them started on a huge task: packing! Begin by asking students to research the climate of your destination and have them forecast the weather for when you're on your trip. Then, review the activities on your itinerary and have students look into what locals wear (hint: Instagram is a great resource for this because you can search by location). Given this information, ask your students what they should pack. Challenge them to pack as light as possible! Then, ask them to think about things that would enhance their travel (journals, water bottles, etc.). Write up a class packing list that you can display!

