

Perspectives and Postcards

AIMS

Students understand that people have different perspectives because of their different backgrounds and experiences.

Students consider similarities and differences between ways of life.

Students write from the perspective of another person.

Students use appropriate conventions for writing.

LINKS

S&E (Culture, Investigation, Communication and Participation), English (Conventions, Reading, Writing,) Arts (Arts Skills and Processes)

MATERIALS

Computer, internet connection, printer, paper, pens

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Ask students what they think it would be like to travel to China as a member of the Australian Olympic team. What do they think would seem new and different to them? What do they think might seem similar to home?

See <http://www.olympics.com.au/Portals/3/InteractiveExplorer/index.html> for pictures of Beijing.

Students can look at pictures of the Olympic village at:

<http://en.beijing2008.cn/news/dynamics/headlines/n214112833.shtml> How does the village look similar and different to places they have stayed before?

Now ask students to imagine that they are an athlete or visitor to the Olympics from another country. How might Beijing seem to someone from Pakistan? Tanzania? Samoa? Would they see Beijing the same way the students see Beijing? Think about what they might eat; where they might live; what they might do for fun and entertainment, and how this would affect what they see.

Using the country profiles at <http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/globaled/go/pid/37>, each student should imagine what life is like for a person from that country. (Discuss with students that there would be a variety of lifestyles in each country.) They should imagine that person is at the Olympics and write a postcard explaining their impressions of Beijing to their friends and family at home. This can be illustrated with a picture of a favourite Beijing location.

VARIATIONS/EXTENSIONS

- Students could send an email and attach photos (created in drawing/photographic programs) instead of making a postcard.
- Students could use the profiles of individual children in books or kits such as *Children Just Like Me* by Anabel and Barnabas Kindersley to inform their writing.
- Students could role play their reactions (as themselves and someone from another country) when arriving in Beijing and looking around the city and the Olympic village.
- Students could research in further depth what life is like for people in another country. The One World Centre has discovery boxes on these countries that may help: India, Indonesia, Myanmar (Burma), Tanzania, Thailand, Tibet, Vietnam. There are also many books, audiovisual resources and teaching kits.