

Name: Christy Weitz

Website Used: <https://pulitzercenter.atavist.com/story/5814>

Lesson/Unit Name and Content Area: Lesson Plan -- Out of Eden, A Story Teller's Eye, Elementary Language Arts

Assessment of its Global Competence: When I first read through this lesson plan, I thought it was fantastic. It gives kids a chance to learn about a journalist who is exploring the world on foot, while also teaching the skill of summarization. After viewing it within the context of the four components of the Global Competence Matrix, I see that it is lacking in many areas.

Investigating the World

Strengths: This lesson plan gives students access to a journalist who is spending seven years investigating the world on foot. It gives students a unique window into more isolated areas of the world that are not investigated and discussed in elementary classrooms as frequently as others.

Areas for Improvement and Recommendations: The Global Competence Matrix recommends that students generate a research question. This lesson plan does not ask students to generate their own research question. That could easily be added to the beginning of the lesson.

Recognizing Perspectives

Strengths: This lesson plan allows students to consider Paul's perspective and potentially how it changes as he walks 21,000 miles in seven years.

Areas for Improvement and Recommendations: Although the lesson plan includes information about the areas that Paul will be traveling to, it does not ask students to consider the perspectives of the people in these areas. I recommend adding a think-pair-share or inside-outside-circle in which students discuss the question, "How do you think the people in _____ (wherever Paul currently is) feel about Paul and his journey?"

Communicating Ideas

Strengths: This lesson does a good job of integrating technology through the use of the voice memo from Paul, through the map, and through the additional links.

Areas for Improvement and Recommendations: I think the use of technology could further aid the students in discovering more information about the people and areas of the world that Paul is visiting. An additional day could be spent on online research and summaries of that research.

Take Action

Strengths: Unfortunately, this lesson does not include opportunities for students to take action.

Areas for Improvement and Recommendations: One of the actions to take, according to the Educating for Global Competence report, is for students to reflect on their capacity to advocate for and contribute to improvement locally, regionally, or globally. This type of reflection could be included as part of the research phase I mentioned adding. As students learn more about the region where Paul is currently traveling, depending upon the current region, they could reflect on ways they could help improve conditions there.