

A BIG RAFT IN AN OCEAN OF GEOGRAPHY

Richard Rossow was so excited about his geography unit that he entered his idea in a contest for wonderful geography teaching ideas. Richard told his kids the city of Kalispell was interested in establishing a sister city in Europe. Of course, Europe just happened to be the next unit in his 8th grade geography program. A travel agent visited the classes, talked about travel in Europe, distributed brochures and travel guides, and students began planning travel itineraries. Some expectations were that students would “travel” in groups of three, prepare an advance itinerary, planning cities and places of interest to visit on their travel routes, all with the intention of reporting to a city council group upon their return. To better prepare their reports, students wrote daily in travel logs. Kids spent some time in the library pursuing the perfect trip plan and, as vacationing travelers usually do, trying to see as much as possible in a limited time. Visual, oral presentations completed the unit. A fine RAFT to explore any country.

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