



Mission Statement and Correlated Learning Outcomes

Beyond the Block is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Our mission is to improve global awareness, increase intellectual curiosity, develop critical-thinking skills, and encourage completion of high school and post-secondary education in at-risk youth through the production of educational travel documentary videos, an accompanying curriculum, and other educational opportunities and materials.

Improve global awareness by:

- Encouraging students to recognize, examine, and/or develop their own cultural identity.
Students will learn that in order to understand another's culture, one must understand their own.
- Comparing and contrasting students' own values and beliefs in relation to those of the featured community.
Students will learn that every human sees the world through the lens of their own cultural values and beliefs.
- Increasing geographic and cultural literacy.
Students will learn where the featured country is in relation to the United States and what life is like for a community of children in that country.

Increase intellectual curiosity by:

- Exposing students to different life experiences.
Students will learn about the variety of human experience and how it is similar or different to their own.
- Increasing student's desires to explore the world around them.
Students will learn to see the world as a place of interest, discovery, and new experiences.
- Encouraging students to engage with people of different cultures.
Students will learn that many people are eager to share their lives and culture and will be encouraged to make connections with them.

Develop critical thinking skills by:

- Comparing and contrasting the resources in the US to that of the featured community.
Students will learn that social and systemic issues make every country, and the experience of their citizens, vastly different.
- Providing an unbiased, primary source of information for students.
Students will learn that stereotypes can only be clarified through direct communication.
- Exposing students to the issues of global poverty, social justice, and equality.
Students will learn to examine the rights and privileges afforded to a country's citizens and how that affects their daily lives.

Encourage completion of high school and post-secondary education by:

- Comparing and contrasting the educational system in the US to that of the featured community.
Students will learn that the educational system in the US, despite its faults, is far more comprehensive and accessible than the educational systems in many other countries.
- Creating a positive view of their personal future and increasing their resiliency.
Students will learn that many of life's seemingly insurmountable challenges can be overcome by identifying their dreams and goals and pursuing them by using their resources and strengths.
- Increasing achievement motivation.
Students will learn to look at their lives from a strength-based perspective, holding themselves to high expectations in school and life.