

Using Friday Fotos to Discuss Culture & Global Issues

Resource :: Every Classroom Has a Story

No matter the age of your students, pictures are a fantastic way to start conversations about culture and global issues.

Many of our readers have let us know that they use CulturallyTeaching's *Friday Fotos* in their classrooms as a way to increase students' awareness of other cultures and worldviews. We think this is awesome.

Knowing how busy our readers are, we thought we would help out by grouping some of our *Friday Fotos* around certain themes (classrooms, playgrounds, school transportation). To make things even easier for you, we have thought of discussion questions that can help your students talk about these *Friday Fotos* and enhance their cultural and global awareness. This resource focuses on photos of classrooms in six countries.

Discussion Questions for the Classroom

The pictures in this resource present a wonderful opportunity to talk with your students about global issues, such as economic conditions, resources and physical environment, climate change, political developments, science and technology, and health. Here are four overarching conclusions that could come out of a *Friday Foto* discussion:

1. People have an impact on the earth's ecosystems.
2. Things are heavily influenced by their geographical setting, and there is a connection between geography, weather, and transportation.
3. The ways people interact with their environment reveals their cultural values, their economic needs, and political context.
4. Different cultures use space differently, and this affects their perception of the world.

When discussing these pictures with your students, you can use some of our questions below to help keep the conversation in the area of culture and global issues:

1. What do you see in this photo? (Tip :: Draw your students' attention to the distinction between description and interpretation -- our *O-DIVE Model* resource can help with this. Also, help your students make the connection between the students' classroom environment and the more general global issues mentioned above, such as geography, economy, weather, health, and resources).
2. What are the students wearing? Uniforms? Everyday clothes? Why do you think they are wearing those clothes? How is the clothing different from what students in your country wear?
3. Are there both boys and girls in the picture? Why do you think that is?
4. How are the students seated in relation to one another, as well as in relation to the teacher? In rows? In a circle? In groups? Why do you think that is? How is your classroom arranged?
5. Are all students sitting? If only one is standing, why do you think that is?
6. What would you like to ask the students in this photo about their classroom, school or culture? What do you think they'd like to ask you?
7. How would you describe your classroom, school, and culture to students around the world?

Friday Foto #1 :: Classroom in Afghanistan



Photo by :: [thechildrenofwar](http://thechildrenofwar.com)

<http://culturallyteaching.com/2009/04/24/foto-friday-girls-school-in-afghanistan/>

Friday Foto #2 :: Classroom in Peru



Photo by :: [OTAILLON](http://otailon.com)

<http://culturallyteaching.com/2009/04/17/friday-foto-peruvian-classroom/>

Friday Foto #3 :: Classroom in Morocco



Photo by :: [papalars](#)

<http://culturallyteaching.com/2009/03/13/friday-foto-moroccan-classroom/>

Friday Foto #4 :: Classroom in Turkey



Photo by :: Scott Wallace / [World Bank Photo Collection](#)

<http://culturallyteaching.com/2009/07/24/friday-foto-teaching-in-turkey/>

Friday Foto #5 :: Classroom in Argentina



Photo by :: [Pamela Arrarás](#)

<http://culturallyteaching.com/2009/01/25/school-snapshot-teaching-efl-in-argentina-part-2/>

Friday Foto #6 :: Classroom in the United States



Photo by :: [Dave Parker](#)

<http://culturallyteaching.com/2009/08/21/friday-foto-story-time/>