It's a small world

Lesson plan description
Students explore a day in a child’s life in another country, specifically Japan. Inquiry and discussion are focused on geographical location, comparing similarities and differences and global interconnectedness.

- Students will partake in different activities (song, discussion, ICT work) to gain an awareness of two different countries.
- Students will understand the geographical location of Australia and Japan in the world.
- Students will become aware of the similarities and differences between children’s daily lives in Australia and Japan.
- Students will reflect on their understanding through art and discussion.

Year levels
Early Years (5–7 years)

Duration
50 minutes

Explicit values focus
- Care and compassion
- Fair go
- Respect
- Understanding, tolerance and inclusion

Key Learning Areas
- Languages
- The Arts
- Technology
- Society and Environment

Lesson plan

Getting started

Activity 1: Let’s sing
- Ask students about the world? What is it? Is it big or small?
- Ask if they know the song ‘It's a Small World’? A copy of ‘It’s a Small World’ can be found at: http://www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/lyrics/smworld.htm
- Sing the chorus together in English.
- Teach the chorus in Japanese.
- Ask students what they think this song means?

Discovering

Activity 2: Let’s talk
Tell students that we are going to talk about two countries in the world: Australia and Japan.
- Ask students where Australia is in the world? Where is Japan?
• Look at a globe or a map and ask students to locate the two countries.
• How do the students think these two countries are similar or different?
• Brainstorm ideas with students about their own everyday lives, asking questions like:
  o Where do you live?
  o Who do you live with?
  o What time do you get up?
  o What do you do in the morning?
  o What do you wear?
  o How do you get to and from school?
  o What do you do at school?
  o What do you eat?
  o What do you do after school?
  o What do you like about your day?
  o What don't you like about your day?
  o How do you care for other people?
  o How are you fair to others?
  o How are you respectful of others?
  o How do you include other people?
• Using similar questions, ask students what they think a child’s day is like in another country, such as Japan.
• Ask the students what they would like to know about the lives of Japanese children.

Visit the following website

At the bottom of the page are 'Discovery Boxes'. The following options are great resources for teachers for Early Childhood activities: 'Elementary school', 'Writing and calligraphy', 'Toys', and 'Food'.

Show the images that are found in these options. You can use a data projector and show all the class, or the students could work in small groups at a computer to view the images. Ask:
• What things did you see that were the same in both countries (Australia and Japan)?
• What things did you see that were different in Australia and Japan?

Activity 3: Let's explore and draw

Look at the pictures and read stories about students' lives.
Ask students to think about their discussions and their research and draw one thing that is the same or one thing that is different about a child’s life in Australia and Japan. Ask students to explain what they have drawn to a classmate.

Bringing it together

Activity 4: Let's reflect
Display the students’ artwork and talk about what they have learnt about children’s lives in Australia and Japan. Ask the students to sit in a circle for the discussion. Ask questions such as:
• What are the similarities between Australia and Japan?
• What are some differences between Australia and Japan?
• How do people in Australia and Japan show they care for each other?
• How do people in Australia and Japan show they understand each other?
• Is it a ‘small world’?

Sing the song ‘It’s a Small World’ in English and Japanese again. Ask:

• What does the song mean to you now?
• Do you think the song has a different meaning after doing this activity?

Notes for teachers
Discuss with the students that this activity gives them a glimpse of Japanese life and is not the total picture of life in Japan.

Further resources
National Institutes of Health, Department of Health & Human Services
http://www.niehs.nih.gov/kids/lyrics/smworld.htm
(A copy of ‘It’s a Small World’ is found at this site.)

Snapshots of Asia
The Snapshots of Asia links are another excellent resource to introduce knowledge and appreciation of Japanese students to the class.