

MappingtheNation.net Using Data to Better Understand My Community

Getting Started:	Location – where you live and what you already know
What is the name of the state and county in which you live?	
Where do you see evidence of other countries or cultures in your county? (Businesses, restaurants, religious institutions, etc)	
Go to http://mappingthenation.net , click on your state and hover your mouse over your county. You can use the menu on the left hand side of the screen to answer these questions:	
Economics:	What are the economic factors relating to a globally competent workforce?
How many people are employed by companies importing and exporting goods?	
How many jobs are related to exports?	
What is the estimated sales value of imports and exports of goods (total)?	
Demographics:	How is a global citizenry reflected?
What percent of the population in your state or county is foreign born?	
Has this increased over time? Look at the indicator “% of Total Population that is Foreign-Born”	
Are non-English languages spoken in your community? What are they? (Look at "Languages Spoken at Home: % Speaking.")	
Are there Sister City partnerships in your area?	

Are there language or cultural resources in your school?	
Education:	What opportunities do students have to learn about and with their global peers?
Are the languages being taught in your schools those that are being spoken in the community?	
Do the languages being taught align with the top export markets for your state? (check your state infographic for this information.)	
What about national security—are critical languages being taught?	
How many students in your high school and local college/university take part in study abroad programs?	
Take action:	Now that you have all of this information, what action will you take to change learning in your classroom this year?
When is the last time someone from another country came to your school or class to teach about something related to his or her culture - beyond a festival, holiday, or meal?	
How could you find volunteers to come and share their experiences? What would you like to know about their countries?	
Have you ever had someone from a business talk about the global nature of their work? Who could you invite? What questions would you ask them?	
Brainstorm in teams or on your own: What resources are around you in your classroom? Do any parents work for a company that imports or exports? Any college students from other countries in your town? How about family members living in other countries who could skype into your classroom? Is there a chamber of commerce you can connect with and ask more about visiting delegations? What about sister city partnerships? Choose one of these ideas and follow up to get you started!	