

Taking Action—Additional Ways to Become Involved

To help students become more involved in the norms and sensitivities of other cultures, you may wish to guide them to real-life experiences that employ what they have learned in this booklet’s lessons. These experiences may occur in the classroom, in the school at large, at home, in the local community, or in communities worldwide.

Following are some activities, projects, and opportunities for taking action, in addition to those provided at the ends of some of the lessons under the heading “Taking Action”:

1. Modify the lessons in this booklet and have students lead younger children through the activities.
2. Have students create a serious or funny book about real-life examples of cultural misunderstandings that occurred because of differences in language or behavior. Display these books in your school or local library for all students to read.
3. Invite students to participate in the Peace Corps Partnership Program. Many U.S. classes have joined the Peace Corps Partnership Program by providing assistance to Peace Corps Volunteer projects that aid students and communities worldwide. For information on how to participate, visit the World Wise Schools website.
4. Encourage students interested in performing community service in their school, community, and beyond to visit the Corporation for National and Community Service website at www.cns.gov. Students can choose from a database of service activities in their local community, participate in a [Learn and Serve](#) project in their school or community, or sign up to serve as an AmeriCorps member after graduating from high school.
5. Organize a school program wherein your students can help second-language speakers enroll their children in school or in other important community activities. Part of this project could include the preparation of fliers for the community announcing the services of your students.
6. Participate in a local construction project through Habitat for Humanity or other community-assistance organizations. Invite students to document the building process—including short interviews with the volunteer participants— using videotape. Present the completed videotape to the local chapter of the service group being assisted.
7. Invite students already serving their school or community to record their service experiences on the USA Freedom Corps website at www.usafreedomcorps.gov. USA Freedom Corps offers service opportunities to Americans of all ages who are looking for ways to serve their community, country, and the world.

For extensive resources and ideas about how students can become involved in their communities and beyond in promoting cross-cultural understanding, see the World Wise Schools website. Learn how to incorporate service into your curriculum by following World Wise Schools’ step-by-step service-learning guide and lesson plans.

Building Bridges: A Peace Corps Classroom Guide to Cross-Culture Understanding

Have students keep a journal documenting instances in which they were able to apply concepts in this booklet to promote cross-cultural understanding in your school.

Quotes for Thought

Preserving civilization is the work not of some miracle-working, super-human personality but of each one of us.

—Bill Moyers Former Deputy Director, Peace Corps

Through service, we have only our communities to build and ourselves to discover.

—Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Fiji Islands