

## TRAVEL AS EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT



By Madeline L. Buchanan  
Beta Lambda, Beta State, Alabama  
[www.mlbuchanan.com](http://www.mlbuchanan.com)  
[madeline@mlbuchanan.com](mailto:madeline@mlbuchanan.com)

## WHY TRAVEL?

- "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page." – St. Augustine
- "The use of traveling is to regulate imagination by reality, and instead of thinking how things may be, to see them as they are." – Samuel Johnson
- "People travel to faraway places to watch, in fascination, the kind of people they ignore at home." – Dagobert D. Runes
- "One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things." – Henry Miller

## ALWAYS REMEMBER

- ❖ It is very important to enjoy yourself on a trip.
- ❖ Try to look as if you know where you are going, even if you don't.
- ❖ In Europe, try to blend in with the natives. Dress as if you're one of them.
- ❖ Leave your expensive jewelry at home and don't display large amounts of cash.
- ❖ Be aware of helpful strangers.
- ❖ Keep your sense of humor.

## SAFETY TIPS

- ❖ Scan your passport, passport photo, and driver's license. Store in a web-based email account such as Gmail or your internet provider's webmail feature. You can also store emergency contacts, lost credit or debit card telephone numbers, and emergency information.
- ❖ Split up your valuables when packing. If you're traveling with a friend, split items between your suitcases in case of lost luggage.
- ❖ Carry your passport and money in a pouch underneath your clothing or in a holder attached to your belt.

## PACKING TIPS

- ❖ Use small bottles to pack shampoo, toiletries, and lotions (3 oz. or less).
- ❖ Remember to bring extra plastic bags, (preferably zip-lock). Divide your items so that you can take out a series of bags and see immediately what you want.
- ❖ Pack only what you will use.
- ❖ Keep any medication in your carry-on bag.

## PACKING TIPS

- ❖ **VERY IMPORTANT:** Pack a fresh change of clothes (or even two changes) in your carry-on bag in the event that your suitcase is delayed or lost.
- ❖ Carry a small package of Kleenex with you at all times. You never know if restrooms supply toilet paper.
- ❖ Purchase a small travel scale that you can take to weigh your suitcases for your return journey. Your suitcase always weighs more when you are coming home than when you start your trip.

**ORGANIZED TOUR OR ON YOUR OWN?**

- ❖ **Advantages of an organized tour**
  - ❖ You will get more detailed information about the sights you see.
  - ❖ There's safety in numbers. Your guide may even know the pickpockets and ask them to stay away from your group.
  - ❖ Your guide can recommend restaurants, best places for shopping, and additional tourist attractions that are not included on the tour.
  - ❖ You may see sights that you probably would not visit if you were on your own.
  - ❖ You don't have to worry about finding places on your own.
  - ❖ Entrance fees are usually included in the tour price.
  - ❖ You don't have to worry about missing your ship if the tour is a shore excursion purchased on the cruise ship.

**ORGANIZED TOUR OR ON YOUR OWN?**

- ❖ **Disadvantages of an organized tour**
  - ❖ The tour group may be too large for you to hear your guide (unless you have individual earphones).
  - ❖ Your guide may spend too long at one place, not giving you enough time at a place you really are interested in.
  - ❖ Your guide's voice may be irritating, in a monotone, or repetitive.
  - ❖ You may have to wait for people who are late getting to the bus, giving you less time at your next stop.
  - ❖ Restroom stops may be limited or too far apart. Ladies, prepare to spend your rest stop standing in line because all tour companies use the same location for rest stops and there are probably only two or three stalls.

**ORGANIZED TOUR OR ON YOUR OWN?**

- ❖ **Advantages of being on your own**
  - ❖ You can spend as much time as you want viewing your chosen sites.
  - ❖ You can enjoy a leisurely meal at the restaurant of your choice.
  - ❖ You can visit places that would not normally be on a guided tour.
  - ❖ You will experience more of the culture of the area.
  - ❖ You can shop anywhere you wish without worrying about the tour guide getting a kickback or items being too expensive.
  - ❖ You can get good exercise by walking.

**ORGANIZED TOUR OR ON YOUR OWN?**

- ❖ **Disadvantages of being on your own**
  - ❖ Arranging transportation to see the sights may be a challenge. Taxi drivers are not always honest, especially if they realize you don't know the language.
  - ❖ Beware of pickpockets and strangers offering to help.
  - ❖ You will get less detailed information about the places that you visit.
  - ❖ Watch your time carefully and make sure you allow for transportation back to the ship if on a cruise.
  - ❖ You will pay your own entrance fees.
  - ❖ You will probably get lost. Pickpockets prey on tourists who carry maps and guidebooks.

**USING TRAVEL IN EDUCATION**

Since your students are not able to come with you on your trip, it is your responsibility to use what you have learned to enrich their education. Too many students are taught about other parts of our world using the textbook, lecture, and note-taking methods and see no reason to retain that knowledge other than to pass a test.

**USING TRAVEL IN EDUCATION**

- ❖ **Integrated Curriculum**
  - ❖ Social Studies – Historical sites, cultural differences, sociology, foods, geography, transportation, education.
  - ❖ Fine Arts – Art, music, folkloric shows
  - ❖ Science – Astronomy, philosophy, botany, zoology
  - ❖ Mathematics – metric system, money, trip planning
  - ❖ Language Arts – Descriptive writing, narrative writing, research, word origins



Children are born with an inner sense of curiosity when it comes to learning.

Unfortunately, adults stifle that curiosity by teaching children using methods that are often boring, repetitive, and uninteresting due to the emphasis on test scores in today's school systems.

Children love hearing adults talk about their unique experiences. How many times have your children or grandchildren asked about events that happened when you were growing up? And how well did they pay attention to what you had to tell them?



Children learn about the world by relating to the experiences of those who have been there because the content seems more realistic to them than if they learn it through memorizing and testing.



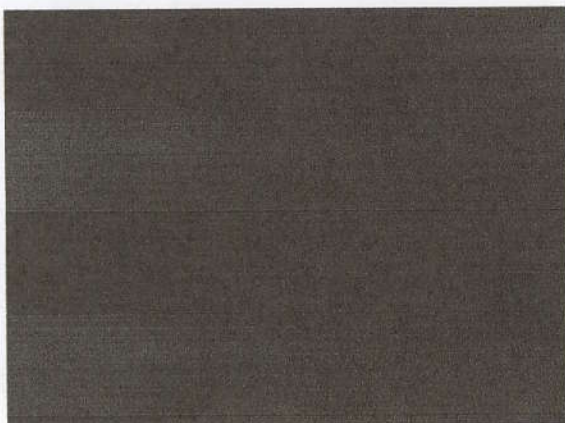
## USING TRAVEL EXPERIENCES TO TEACH ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Tell a personal narrative of your travels, read a story, share a photograph album, or show a video or slide show of a trip you have taken.



Use the information that you share with your students to create lessons that they will enjoy. Skills that they will be required to master can be integrated into these lessons.





### LANGUAGE ARTS

- ❖ Pretend you are visiting the areas shown on the video. Write a narrative about what you hope to learn while you are in the country. Use descriptive language to describe what you have seen.
- ❖ Ask some questions about the video using higher-level thinking skills to promote thought among your classmates.
- ❖ Discuss English words which are derived from the ancient Greek language. (can also be used as a foreign language activity)

### MATH

- ❖ Convert Euros into dollars to determine the cost of an item, night in a hotel, a tour, or other expenditure that you might have.
- ❖ Change kilometers into miles to determine how far you have to go to reach a designated place.
- ❖ Calculate the cost of a trip to Greece.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

- ❖ Determine geographical characteristics of the area, identify the Greek Islands, the bodies of water around Greece, and countries bordering Greece.
- ❖ Research the ways of life in Santorini and Patmos.
- ❖ Find historical data about the ancient Greek civilizations and their ways of life.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

- ❖ Identify the gods and goddesses of Greek mythology and determine how the Greek religious beliefs molded their everyday lives.
- ❖ Compare the ways that the Greeks live today with the way that people in the United States live.
- ❖ Learn how Christianity affected the lives of the Greeks of the first centuries.

### SCIENCE

- ❖ Research Greek scientists' contributions in botany, earth science, biology, philosophy, and zoology, and medicine.
- ❖ Discuss the origin of the Hippocratic Oath, which doctors follow today.
- ❖ Identify the Greek developments in astronomy.

**FINE ARTS**

- ❖ Students will recognize Greek methods of construction and characteristics of Greek sculpture.
- ❖ Decide how Greek art, music, drama, architecture, and pottery has influence the lives of people in western civilizations today.
- ❖ Describe the lyre.
- ❖ Identify what the Greeks are doing to preserve their ancient architecture.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

- ❖ Research the history of the ancient Olympic games and compare those to the Olympic games today.
- ❖ Identify the different parts of the Olympic symbol.

**REMEMBER...**

- ❖ Students are interested in where you go, why you go, and what you did when you were away.
- ❖ Every aspect of travel can be turned into interesting lessons that have the ability to cover all areas of the curriculum.
- ❖ It is important that administrators see that your showing pictures, slide shows, and videos of your travels is not simply entertainment, but valuable teaching tools that keep your students interested in learning.

**REMEMBER...**

- ❖ Students will learn valuable skills that will help them throughout their lives.
- ❖ Students will practice using higher level thinking skills as they work together to complete assignments.
- ❖ Students will enjoy finding out facts for themselves.
- ❖ And most important, students will have fun and retain what they have learned.

**HAVE A SAFE AND  
WONDERFUL TRIP!**

