Sensitivity to the Difficulties of Learning Another Language

Teachers often say that map skills are easy for second language learners and expect students to follow geography lessons in a very short time.

Photocopy a map of Europe from a dictionary printed in another language. Dictionaries for different languages can usually be found in public libraries. Give each person in the group a copy of the map.

If you do not speak a second language, ask a world language teacher in your school or a parent volunteer to give this lesson. Do not choose a language that is spoken by a large number of teachers in your school.

Give a short geography lesson in another language. This will show how place names do not sound the same in other languages. Ask questions, raise your voice when someone is not following. Let participants get a feel for what it is like to be surrounded by an incomprehensible language.

At the end of the oral lesson, give participants a a short written quiz.

Ask participants the following questions at the demonstration:

How did you feel during that lesson?

You all knew the concepts being taught and geography is a very visual subject. Why couldn't you do the work? What did you learn?

How would you have felt if you had been the only one in the class not to follow?

Nom_____

La Carte du Monde

Ecrivez apres chaque le suivant: Continent, pays, ville, et capitale:

1. La Varsovie _____

2. L'Allemagne_____

3. L'Amerique du Nord _____

4. L'Iselande_____

5. Le Changhai _____

6. La Grande Bretagne_____

7.L'Espagne_____

9. Paris_____

10. La Vienne

11. La Chine

12 Geneve_____

Nom_____

La Carte du Monde

Ecoutez et ecrivez apres chaque numero le suivant: Continent, pays, ville, et capitale. L'orthographe compte!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6._____

7._____

8._____

9. _____

10._____

11._____

12 _____