

The background features a textured, light beige surface. In the center, there is a silhouette of a mountain range. On the right side, there are several thin, dark branches with small, dark, round buds or leaves hanging down.

*Breaking Down Barriers:
How to Effectively Organize International Trips for K-12*

Turan Balik, Turkish Language Teacher
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Introduction

- ❖ Middle Eastern Studies, B.A
History, Minor;
Rutgers University
- ❖ Young Scholars of
Central PA Charter
School;
- ❖ Turkish Language
Teacher
- ❖ Character Ed.
Teacher



Turkish Proverb

- ❖ Her yiğidin bir yoğurt yiyişi vardır!
- ❖ Literal Translation: Every guy (yiğit = brave young man) has his own way of eating yogurt!
- ❖ Figurative Translation: Everyone has their own way of doing things.



Topics to Discuss

- ❖ Benefits of International Trips (Brief Overview)
- ❖ Planning Prior to Trip
- ❖ Planning During Trip
- ❖ Planning After Trip
- ❖ Question and Answer Session (If time permits) 😊

Benefits of International Trips

- ❖ Academic Attainment – Short/Long Term
- ❖ Cultural Development
- ❖ Personal Growth
- ❖ Career Impact – Long Term

THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE TRIP

Deciding on Trip Type (Shop Around)

- Types of trips and Study Abroad programs
- Short trip (10 days) or language camp (30 days)
- School Approval
- Cost

Publicize your trip (Get the word out)

- Syllabus, newsletter, school website, flyers
- Building rapport with parents and students

Selection Process (Who should go?)

- Criteria Defined

THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE TRIP

Paperwork

- ❖ Permission Slips (school), Waiver of Liability of Release Form
- ❖ Student Contract (helpful)
- ❖ Contact info cards (for students to wear)
- ❖ Parental Consent (notarized, custody purposes)

THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE TRIP

- ❖ **Paying for the trip**
- ❖ **Passports**
- ❖ **Visa(s)**
- ❖ **Provide reading materials**
- ❖ **Go over Etiquette, Customs & Gestures**
- ❖ **Appropriate Attire**
- ❖ **Travel Insurance (Good Idea)**



Travel.state.gov

**Smart Traveler Enrollment Program
(STEP)**

Orientation

- ❖ Packing
- ❖ Respecting Customs/Traditions
- ❖ Buying gifts/spending
- ❖ Basic Phrases to learn/know
- ❖ Identification Badge
- ❖ Staying in Touch with loved ones
- ❖ Going over the itinerary
- ❖ Rules & Expectations



Orientation continued...

- ❖ Culture Shock
- ❖ Sample camp schedule (classes, daily schedule, activities/programs)
- ❖ School/Housing/Safety/Food
- ❖ Medication
- ❖ Fundraiser Activities



Turkish Culture Quiz – true or false

- ❖ 1. In Turkey, putting your thumb between your first two fingers is considered to be a rude and insulting gesture. (Fig gesture)

Turkish Culture Quiz

- ❖ 2. The US gesture of wagging the head to indicate “no” means “I don’t understand.”



Turkish Culture Quiz

- ❖ 3. It is very common in Turkey to see two men or women holding hands or arm in arm at walking on the street.



Turkish Culture Quiz

- ❖ 4. During a business meal in Turkey, it is customary to share the bill.



During the Trip

- ❖ Take Photos
- ❖ Designate 1 hour - Reflection
- ❖ Teachable moments
- ❖ Integrating language with culture
(Make it real - interactive)



After the Trip

- ❖ Follow Up, Get together Party
- ❖ Have students share their travel logs, souvenirs

THANK YOU!



Questions?

