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Background

Mr. Fawzy used the Timed-Round Robin activity featured in the video to help his 6th-grade students learn about weather in different Arab countries, compare it to other places they are familiar with, and then present what they learned to their classmates. Mr. Fawzy divided his class into small groups and set a time limit for the presentations so that everyone in each group had a turn.

The Assignment

At the beginning of the unit (at least a few weeks prior to this classroom activity), Mr. Fawzy had assigned each of his students an Arab country. Over the weeks that followed, he asked students to prepare two slides—one containing a picture of the weather in the Arab country the students were assigned at a certain time of year, and the other containing a picture of the weather in a different city or country in the same season. (The second location could be the students' own city or another location of their choice.) Mr. Fawzy also asked students to write a script entirely in Arabic that contained the descriptions of the weather in both locations.

Student Presentations

In their presentations, students were asked to mention the month represented in each picture and to describe the weather in each place at that time of year using vocabulary appropriate to their learning level. Depending on their command of numbers, they could also provide the average temperature or its range.

- For example, in describing summertime conditions, students could say something like “The temperature is nice” or “The temperature is very hot, between 40 and 45 degrees Celsius.”
- Students could also comment on other aspects that appeared in their pictures, such as the types of clothing people were wearing, whether there was grass or trees around, or whether the place was in the mountains, in a desert, or near a body of water.

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Mr. Fawzy described his approach to the activity this way:

“The presentation during the Timed Round-Robin actually allowed every student about a minute to present. Obviously, it depends on the amount of script they have...Tomorrow, if we re-do the same activity or the next lesson, I will mix up the teams so they can hear about other countries...I switch them back and forth so they can have a taste of all countries that they researched.”