

World Explorer



The Woodcraft Folk



Foreword

The World Explorer badge builds on the World Friend Elfin badge. It seeks to develop an understanding of other people from around the world, and to explore both our diversity and our common humanity. It teaches Pioneers that Woodcraft Folk is part of a wider international network called IFM-SEI (International Falcon Movement-Socialist Education International) and invites them to build links with a group from abroad. Ideally this will lead to an exchange trip with the group giving Pioneers an opportunity to visit new friends and learn about their way of life, but this is not always possible and exchanging messages is enough to earn the badge.



Learning Objectives

- To understand Woodcraft Folk's place as part of IFM-SEI.
- To make friends with children from another IFM-SEI group.
- To learn about what it's like to live in a different country.



Challenges

- 1) To be able to explain what IFM-SEI is.
- 2) To make friends with children from another IFM group.





Activities

- **What is IFM-SEI?:**

The Woodcraft Folk is part of an umbrella international organisation called IFM-SEI, made up of lots of groups from all over the world. This provides an ideal opportunity for the Pioneers to get to know and better understand other people from around the world.

Get the Pioneers to sit around a large world map. First of all explain to the Pioneers that their group is part of a bigger group across the UK, called Woodcraft Folk, and that Woodcraft Folk is part of a bigger group across the world, called IFM-SEI. Explain that IFM-SEI stands for International Falcon Movement-Socialist Education International. This was formed from youth groups all over Europe after the end of the World War 2, and now has members across the whole world. Then either look at a laptop/tablet showing where the IFM-SEI groups are based, or print out a list beforehand to look at. You can find a list of all the different groups in IFM-SEI here:

<http://ifm-sei.org/en/members/>

Then divide the Pioneers into small groups, one group for each of the five continents where there are IFM-SEI groups. Give each small group a print out of the IFM-SEI groups in their continent and some small stickers. Ask the Pioneers to find the country where there is an IFM-SEI group and to mark it with a sticker.

Then look at the map together. Where are there most IFM-SEI groups? Where are the least? What do the Pioneers know about any of the countries?





Activities

- **Making contact with another group:**

For this test the Pioneers must make contact and communicate with another group from abroad. In its simplest sense this could be no more than exchanging a few messages with another group, but this can be made more interesting and informative by individuals becoming 'pen pals', or even actual exchange trips.

It will be far easier to choose a group based in a country where English is widely spoken, e.g. the Scandinavian countries, as this will make communicating far simpler. However, even if you are using English to communicate to some degree it is important that you make the effort to use their language too. You may know someone who speaks their language and is prepared to help translate for you, or you might like to take the opportunity to learn a little of the language yourself. This should apply to the Pioneers themselves too. If possible, involve the Pioneers in choosing which country they'd like to make contact with. There is a link on the previous page to the list of IFM-SEI groups.

First make contact with the organisation's headquarters explaining that you'd like to get in touch with one of their groups. It will help them to find the right group for you if you make clear the age of your Pioneers and what you're hoping to achieve, e.g. just a brief exchange of messages, pen-pals, exchange trips etc... It's also important when getting in touch with the leaders of the group to make sure you're very clear at the outset what your expectations are so that you can avoid misunderstanding and disappointment.





Activities

Explain to the Pioneers, either when choosing which organisation, or once you've made contact with the other group, that you're going to get to know some people from another country. Explain where they are from, that they are roughly the same age as them and go to a group a bit like Woodcraft. Ask the Pioneers what they know about that country. Correct any mistakes and tell them a little bit about the country. Get the Pioneers into pairs or small groups and ask them to make a list of questions they'd like to ask the other group, e.g. what food do you like? What do you do to have fun? Then get the Pioneers back together and ask them to read out their questions.

Group letter

Make a list of all the unique ones. Explain that you're going to write a letter to the other group. Then as a group write a letter to them telling them a little bit about yourselves and trying to include some of the questions that the Pioneers came up with earlier (you might need to vote on which ones to use). If you are hoping to develop individual friendships then make sure you ask them to include the addresses they would like you to use to contact them. You also might want to include some presents, but be wary of what you can and can't send in the post – food is generally bad, but things you've made, or badges or other Woodcraft Folk items should be fine.

Send the letter to the other group and wait for their reply. When it comes bring it to group night and open it up with the Pioneers. Read it out and discuss it, e.g. what they like to do to have fun, what they like to eat. What's different and what's the same as the Pioneers? Do their





Activities

lives seem very different? If you are going to only communicate as a group then write a reply as a group. If you are going to develop individual friendships then move on writing separate letters.

Pen Pals

Make sure before you start that you have discussed with the leaders of the other group which children to pair off with. As their leaders you will know each child and who they are likely to get on well with. It's possible that there won't be the same number of children in both groups. If that happens you might need to double up some Pioneers to have more than one pen-pal, or you might find that there are older Elfins or younger Venturers who are keen to make up the numbers.

Explain to the Pioneers that they're going to write a short letter to another child in the other group. Remind them that they can use the questions they came up with themselves, or any of the other ones they heard, and also that they need to include an address for the other child to reply to (e.g. real, email, social media, but bear in mind not all platforms are used in every country). Ask the Pioneers to find a space on their own and give them paper and a pen. Give them time to write a letter, going around and helping those who get stuck. Make sure you have plenty of spare paper as they might want to start again. If the children from the other group have provided physical addresses then provide envelopes and stamps for them to use. You can gather them in and post them together or ask them to post the letters themselves. For other forms of communication the Pioneers can take their drafts home and send the messages themselves. Make sure you check back





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the Pioneers regularly to see if they have had a reply. You might ask them to bring them in and share them if they want to. Check with the leaders of the other group that all of their children have received their letter or message in case any of your Pioneers failed to send theirs. Also, let them know if any of the Pioneers don't receive a reply. Hopefully, they will at least exchange a few messages, and who knows, maybe become friends.

International Exchanges

The best way to build on this experience of talking to people from other countries is to actually meet them in person. This does involve a lot of work, especially for the leaders, and is not a mandatory test for Pioneers. If you are going to organise an exchange trip please contact the International Team (international@woodcraft.org.uk) at the earliest stage possible. They will be able to provide you with the most up to date advice on taking children abroad and hosting visitors. There are all sorts of things like logistics, safeguarding, programme and money that need to be carefully thought through to make sure the experience is a positive one for all involved. However, if done right, an international exchange can be amazing and something that lives with you forever.

