



## Overview and instructions

### -Home Planet Earth Video

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“Home Planet Earth” is a beautiful world geography activity. Here are some simple ideas of how you can use it in the classroom and/or as part of a stunning performance.

The song “Home Planet Earth” travels alphabetically through 56 countries (including one continent) around the world. It introduces students to each country by way of a striking image of a folk dance from that land. It is amazing how much information can pass through each image. Children can imitate these postures while singing the song.

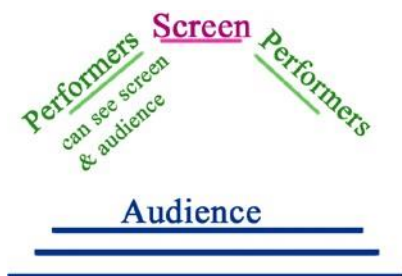
This approach causes students to *experience the lesson* whilst learning the names and getting a feeling for the nature of each culture. In a performance you can project the video on a screen and have the children accompany the video with freeze postures while singing the song. It is a stunning and evocative presentation.

#### Classroom notes:

Print the images to help with your classroom practice.

You will need to decide on the form of the performance. This can be done with any number of children.

The song travels quickly through the countries and it is too fast for all the children to do all the movements. We have done it in different ways, but one way that works really well is to have all the children sitting for the verses and have the children pop up and hold their posture for that country. There are 4 verses so the children can freeze in a posture until the end of their verse and then sit down again or with fewer children they can just pop up, hold the posture for a moment and then sit down as the next people pop up. We organized the children so that they are popping up in order, that way it is easier for the audience to follow.



Another way to do it is to divide the class in half so that the screen is in the middle and the children are standing on either side of the screen diagonally so that they can see the audience but also the screen (See diagram). Then they all stay standing for the whole song and alternate postures from one side to the other.

Divide up the students so that each person has one or a few countries (best if their selections are not next to each other in the song because of the speed of the song). Each student can view the printed images so that they can learn the posture for that image. We usually ask the children to choose which posture they want to do from the slide (if there is more than one). You can have multiple children for each slide; you have to see how many children you have and how you want to set it up.



For the chorus you can have all the children standing with their arms around their neighbor singing the chorus and swaying.

For the instrumental at the end we have "free dance" so it is like a celebration. This can be done as individuals, couples &/or groups all dance at the same time. The children enjoy coming up with fun dance ideas.

Another activity which is fun and easy to incorporate is for the students to make the flags that go with each country. This can be used as a backdrop in a performance. Each child can make a flag or flags for their country/countries that they enact in the program.

Enjoy!