

# Art: The Universal Language of Connection

**GOAL: To make connections with kids in other parts of the world through art.**

**Kids in different parts of the world lead different lives. Some kids live in peace and others at war; some go to school and others have to work; and some have a healthy environment while others breathe polluted air. Although there are many differences, kids everywhere have things in common. Art is one way that kids can connect with each other, using creativity to become friends and teach each other about life. What kind of world do you live in? What kind of world do you want? Kids everywhere have the answers.**

- 1.** The Children's Global Arts Foundation (CGAF) provides kids everywhere with an opportunity to envision, through their artwork and their connections with kids in other countries, the "world we live in" and "the world we want." With this awesome project, Canadian kids have been making art and exchanging it with kids in places from Afghanistan to Tanzania, all in the name of making the world a more peaceful, just, and compassionate place. You can read more at the CGAF website at [www.childrensglobalarts.ca](http://www.childrensglobalarts.ca).
- 2.** Kids in Canadian communities like Victoria, B.C., Milton, Ont., and Calgary, Alta., have exchanged artwork with kids in other countries like Afghanistan, Algeria, Belize, Chile, India, Iran, Iraq, Korea, Nigeria, South Africa, and Tanzania. Some of these exchanges are still going on!
- 3.** Some of the artwork that has been exchanged between kids in Canada and kids in other countries includes pictures, paintings, music, stories, hand-made stick puppets, banners, plays, and traditional board games.
- 4.** What kind of art projects do you like to do? Think about an art project that you could do and then exchange with kids in other parts of the world.
- 5.** The CGAF website has ideas for lots of cool art projects, including clothesline art, dream catchers, and banners. For ideas on how to get projects like these off the ground, check out [www.educ.uvic.ca/globalarts/pages/practicalideas/instructionunits.html](http://www.educ.uvic.ca/globalarts/pages/practicalideas/instructionunits.html).
- 6.** If you want to get involved with the Children's Global Arts Foundation, ask a teacher, parent, or group leader to contact Dr. Tim Hopper at [thopper@uvic.ca](mailto:thopper@uvic.ca) or (250) 472-8385, or Dr. Nadine Cruickshanks at [nadineho@uvic.ca](mailto:nadineho@uvic.ca). Dr. Hopper and Dr. Cruickshanks teach pre-service teachers at the University of Victoria in B.C.

