

THIDA MEP Newsletter

September 2013



First MEP Semester: Finished!

By: Teacher Jade

We are nearing the close of our first MEP semester here at Thida. In my opinion, it's been quite a success thanks to the hard work from all of the teachers and students.

The extra time spent with the foreign English teachers has really proven to be beneficial for the students' English. I've seen marked improvements in many of my students' English production and comprehension. For the teachers, extra time spent with the students, accompanied with the smaller class size, has also allowed us to develop a better rapport with the students as well as an overall understanding of the individual students.

Students were challenged not only in studying English, but in studying other subjects such as Science and Mathematics with their English speaking teachers. This really pushed the students' English abilities, and although it was difficult at the start of the semester, I believe that all of the teachers have seen growth in their classrooms.



Sports Day!

By: Teacher Cat

After much anticipation, the foreign teachers from Super English participated in Thidamaepra's Sports Day. Having heard that we were to play volleyball against the Thai teachers, we took to the sandy court at Koh Lampu to practice.

Getting together to practice helped boost our confidence as we came to the stadium that hot August day to face our opponents. Believing we were going to get completely creamed, we were delightfully surprised in our volleyball skills. Even though we lost, we could still hold our heads up in pride.

The football game that followed was a different story. Thinking that we could bounce back with a game of a different sport, we energetically took to the court again. This time, the Thai teachers truly outdid us with their fast footwork. Perhaps next time we should practice football more than volleyball.

All in all, Sports Day was fun and a great way to see the students outside of the classroom.

Vocabulary



Try to use this new English word:

Rarely: not often; seldom : *it rarely gets cold in Thailand.*



Geography with P4

By: Teacher Eric

The past few weeks in MEP P4, we've been studying geography. We've learned the names of all the continents and oceans, a lot of countries from around the world, and also practiced identifying places on maps and the globe.

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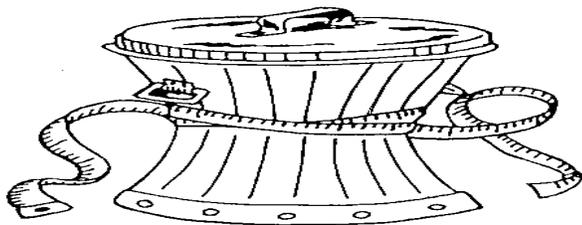
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We talked about all the countries in ASEAN, all the countries that speak English as their native language, and many other countries in Asia.

We studied about what language and money some of the countries use, and about what people from different nations are called.

Soon, we'll also talk about animal habitats in different geographical regions. It's fun to learn about people and cultures from around the world.



Going Green: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle to Keep Earth Healthy

By: Teacher Michael

Things, or products, we need and use every day that are taken from nature are called **natural resources**. Our class is learning to conserve natural resources by practicing the three Rs:

- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle

Practicing the three Rs makes natural resources last longer and helps keep the planet healthy.

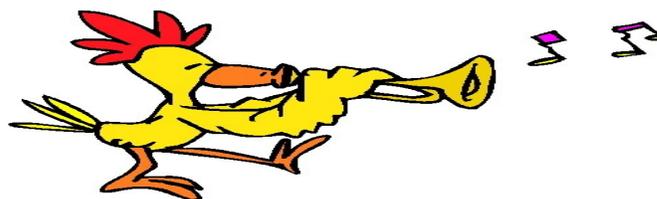
Reduce means **less**: use **less**, buy **less**, make **less** waste. Some examples are: turn off lights you don't need on, don't let water run if not needed, and don't accept plastic bags if you do not need them.

Reuse means to **use again**: You can buy

reusable water bottles to refill, and you can buy reusable bags for shopping. This will save you money and reduce waste—especially plastic.

Recycle means to **put materials in the proper bin** so it can be made into something new. Plastic bottles, paper, tin and aluminum cans, glass, and metals are all recyclable materials. By recycling, humans use less new resources, such as virgin forests and fossil fuels, to make new products.

Bonus: You can **reduce air pollution** by turning off your vehicle when stopped at a long light in traffic. You can also reduce pollution by changing your engine fluids (i.e. Oil) and air filter regularly.



Unusual facts about animals.

By: Teacher Jade

In MEP5 we've been discussing animals in our science class. We've been discussing different groups of animals, such as which are vertebrates and invertebrates, how they adapt, and even how they reproduce.

Below are some unusual facts about different animals throughout the world:

- Ostriches can run faster than horses.
- Tigers also have stripes on their skin, not just their fur.
- Fleas can jump 200X's their height.
- Bats are the only mammals that can fly.
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- Elephants can smell water 3 miles away.
- There are one million ants for every 1 human in the world.
- If a snail loses one of its eyes, it can grow a new one through a process called regeneration.