

# Teacher Exchange: REEP In-service, September 2008

Please bring your completed form on September 19. You will share your activity with other teachers at your level.

**Grouping Strategies:** Describe a recent class activity which used one of the grouping types presented at the May in-service. Check out the May in-service page on REEPworld.org ([http://www.reepworld.org/staff/content/Training/May\\_Inservice](http://www.reepworld.org/staff/content/Training/May_Inservice))

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**Name of Activity:** Leaving on a Jet Plane

**Shared by:** Karen Ohmans

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**Used with these REEP levels:** 250

**Relevant Lifeskill Unit:** Getting to Know You

**Lesson Objective:** Talk about reasons for leaving country of origin and coming to the US  
Evaluate Ss speaking skills

**Technology Integration** (if time): CD Peter Paul and Mary "Leaving on a Jet Plane"

**Time needed to complete this activity:** 1-1/2 hours

**Resources and materials needed:** Overhead of discussion questions

**Type of grouping (ex: like-ability or cross ability; small groups or pair work):** Pair work

**Method of getting students into their groups:**

Assigned according to cross-nationality and native language

**Description:**

Set up 28 chairs in 7 rows like an airplane 2X 2 – 4 across with an aisle in the middle. Gave "boarding passes" to the students as they arrived, according to pre-planned seating chart.

**Instructions/ Steps in the activity:**

1. *Today we're on a plane to New York. I want you to talk to your seat partner about your country and when and why you came to the United States. Here are some ideas for what to talk about. (Show overhead)*

Introduce yourself. Where are you from? Tell me about your country: Where is it? Are you from a city, town or rural area? How big? What is your country famous for? What's your favorite thing about your country? What do you miss about your country? Is your family still in your country? How long have you been in the USA? Why did you come to USA? How did you get here? Do you plan to stay in the US or return to your country?

*The plane lands in 20 minutes. Please talk to your partner until we get to the gate at the airport. Remember what your seat partner tells you! You will be introducing him or her later. Take notes if you need to.*

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Teacher walks down the aisle as “flight attendant” asking the Ss if they need help, encouraging conversation, and listening for speaking skills.

2. After 20 minutes, Ss return to tables.

3. Pairs come up to front and introduce their seat partner. Student A introduces B and explains how and why they came to the US. Student B adds information Student A forgot. Then vice versa.

**Additional activity:**

Play Peter, Paul and Mary song: *Leaving on a Jet Plane*. Pass out lyrics. Discuss meaning, or make grammar lesson on present, present continuous, past, future, or other possibilities, depending on level.

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**Reflection questions**

1. *Why did you use a grouping strategy for this particular activity?*

I wanted to ensure that students of different cultural experiences would talk with each other.

2. *In what way(s) did using the grouping strategy enhance the activity's effectiveness/success (as opposed to conducting the activity as a whole group or individually)?*

It was effective in that the Ss felt more comfortable speaking to just one other person. Everyone had to speak and learn something about someone else. It was a good “Ice Breaker” for the Getting to Know You unit. It also allowed the teacher to assess the speaking level of each student as she walked down the “aisle” of the plane.

— Peter, Paul and Mary

All my bags are packed, I'm ready to go,  
I'm standing here outside your door,  
I hate to wake you up to say good bye.

But the dawn is breaking, it's early morn,  
Taxi's waiting, he's blowin' his horn.  
Already I'm so lonesome, I could cry.

So kiss me and smile for me,  
Tell me that you'll wait for me,  
Hold me like you'll never let me go.  
I'm leaving on a jet plane,  
Don't know when I'll be back again,  
Oh Babe, I hate to go.

There's so many times, I let you down,  
So many times, I've played around,  
I tell you now, they don't mean a thing.  
Every place I go, I think of you,  
Every song I sing, I sing for you,  
When I come back, I'll wear your wedding ring.

*Refrain:* So kiss me.... oh babe I hate to go

Now the time has come to leave you,  
One more time, let me kiss you,  
Then close your eyes; I'll be on my way.  
Dream about the days to come,  
When I won't have to leave alone,  
About the time I won't have to say...

Kiss me and smile for me,  
Tell me that you'll wait for me,  
Hold me like you'll never let me go.  
I'm leaving on a jet plane,  
I don't know when I'll be back again,

Leaving on a jet plane,  
I don't know when I'll be back again,  
Leaving on a jet plane,  
I don't know when I'll be back again,

Oh Babe, I hate to go.