

The 2007-2008 6th Grade Graded Students World View, Material Elements and Non- Material Elements

The sixth grade students come from many different places, but by combining both the single and dual passports together, 68 percent of the students claim Brazil as their nationality. The second largest group is American, with 20 percent, and then third is Korean with 16 percent. As far as length of time living in Brazil, the children are more or less evenly split between all or most of their lives and arriving within the last five years.

Similar Geography and Weather

All of the students have safe water to drink and the majority feel like they have enough personal space. The air they breath is of good quality and their won physical environment is not polluted. All the children eat three meals a day and the majority of them eat a variety of foods from many different paces.

Cities

Almost all of the student live within the city of Sao Paulo with only a very few living in the country. Three fourths of the students live in houses or apartment that their families own. Everyone's sanitary needs are met: garbage is collected away from their homes, the plumbing in their houses work and the sewers take all the waste away in pipes. All the students can get to proper medical care and as a group they are healthy. Very few had a sibling that died before he or she was born. A tenth of the students were underweight when they were born. a few more were when they were in kindergarten, but now all are within normal, healthy weight limits.

Job specialization, class and organized institutions (government, religion, family, and economics)

Families are very, very important to the sixth grade students. The majority of the students live with two parents, or stepparents, in the home. Most have brothers or sisters and, in fact, out of the 250 people in all the immediate families, 40 percent of the people are under the age of 20. Most the parents are between the ages of 31-50.

Almost all people have fathers that work outside the house, while about half of the mothers do. Of the parents who work, all of them are in the formal job market, which requires training or schooling to do well. All the students feel like their families earn enough money to live on comfortably.

All of the parents have had at least a high school education, and a great number have finished college or have an advanced degree. Regardless if they are male or female, all sixth graders receive and have the right to the same amount and kind of education. They also have many after school activities in which they can do things, which interest them.

Three fourths of the students are Christian, with the final quarter being made up of students that are Jewish, Buddhist or have no religion that they claim.

Record Keeping and Technology

100 percent of the students can read and write, all in their home language, and many are fluent in a second. 93 percent of the students have, use and think that a computer is important in their houses. Too, 76 percent of the students use their television to get information about their world and to be entertained. Personal cell phones are common. Almost all of the students use their private cars to get around Sao Paulo and will often use airplanes to travel long distances within the country and to other locations in the world.

Specific Cultural Attributes

Not only are family relationships very important to the sixth graders, relationships with friends are as well. Being liked by both sets, fitting in and having good relationships are a focus. Being able to count on the people you know counts. A lot of time is spent being together in groups. Many students feel like killing, suicide, stealing, doing drug and robbery are taboo.

Quality of Life

Overall, the 2007-2008 Graded sixth grade students, when compared to the whole rest of Brazil, are at the top end of the people in terms of status and wealth. A great deal of students personally own luxury goods— such as video games, X boxes, and Play Stations. Many have their own bedrooms with a lot of personal items. The students show their status by the brand and type of clothing they wear, the things that they have in their locker and by what they do on their free time. Many have other people to do the work around the house and none have to work to earn money to live. While none of the students have a material element stress, in that all their basic needs are met, a number do have the psychological stress of not feeling particularly safe and because of this not being free to do a lot of things on their own when they want.

Overall World View

For the most part, the 2007-2008 sixth grade students have a positive outlook on their lives. While things can be hard for a little while, it all works out in the end. They feel like they can have choices in their lives and that they have a bright future where many things are possible if they want it to happen. There is a difference, however, between the students who call Brazil home and those students of whom Brazil is one of many different places they will live in terms of where and how that future will be formed.