

Volunteers: Joyce*, Ruth, Meghan

Students : Marie, Yoko, Rainbow, Jing Sun

Joyce had a map of the United States and had a student locate Death Valley on the map. Then we read the article in EEN. We reviewed the meaning of the words in bold.

Afterward, we had the students role play as a family planning a vacation, with two who wanted to visit Death Valley, and two who did not. The students had to give good reasons for their choice. The students seemed to enjoy this exercise and got into a good debate.

Next, we looked at the pictures in the article. A student was to describe one of the pictures using a complete sentence. Then a second student had to describe the picture using different words. Finally a third student described the picture, again with different words.

We watched the start of an episode of "Friends". All of the students found it very confusing and difficult to understand. They could not follow the conversations, and did not understand the humor. Part of the difficulty was the rapid rate of speech. Rainbow said she didn't get what was funny and the others agreed. Marie pointed out that sarcasm was particularly difficult to grasp.

Finally, we did a bit of role play with conversation starters. Joyce gave the students a list of conversation starters. A student chose one to use, and a second student responded to it. Joyce gave pointers on responses that would keep the conversation going.