

GLOBALLY COMPETENT STUDENTS

A Case Study for ArtLink Programs in Guatemala

Situation

Mr. **Quixchán's** is the 5th grade teacher in Uaxactún, a community located inside the Biosphere Maya Reserve, the largest patch of primary rainforest in Central America. Uaxactún is an international award winning community (2012 Equator Prize Winner, United Nations Development Program) for their efforts protecting and managing their natural resources. Mr. **Quixchán** has been part of the RainForest ArtLink for four consecutive years. His students cheer for the opportunity to connect with real students overseas, sharing their challenges living in one of the most important regions for nature and cultural preservation.

Challenges

- Dramatic rainforest loss in Central America.
- Cultural erosion that comes along with environmental destruction.
- Shortage of higher educational opportunities.
- Distance and limited access to technology (It takes close to two and a half hours of travel time to the nearest town).
- Absence of educational enrichment programs for students.



Students from Uaxactún, Petén, Guatemala in 2015

Results

By participating in the ArtLink Program, students and teachers in Uaxactún have been able to rediscover and reaffirm their own cultural values while exploring the similarities and differences of their peers from the USA.

They have also:

- Produced amazing pieces of art that have inspired hundreds of students in the USA about the richness of their cultural values and natural resources.
- Promoted their message of sustainable development and environmental protection to a tangible audience.
- Empowered themselves as custodians of their environment and the importance of this effort on a global scale.
- Approached the use of internet technology by connecting with their partners on a HD Videoconference.
- Developed public speaking communication skills.

