

**Title:** Cultural Comparison

**Subject:** Social Science

**Grade Level:** 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 2 30-minute periods

**Objective:** Students will learn about a foreign culture by making connections to their own set of cultural values, traditions, and personal experience.

### **Illinois State Goals and Standards**

**17.A.2a** Compare the physical characteristics of places including soils, land forms, vegetation, wildlife, climate, natural hazards.

**17.A.2b** Use maps and other geographic representations and instruments to gather information about people, places, and environments.

**17.C.2a** Describe how natural events in the physical environment affect human activities.

**17.C.2b** Describe the relationships among location of resources, population distribution and economic activities.

**17.D.2a** Describe how physical characteristics of places influence people's perceptions and their roles in the world over time.

**18.A.2** Explain ways in which language, stories, folk tales, music, media and artistic creations serves as expressions of culture.

**18.A.3** Explain how language, literature, the arts, architecture and traditions contribute to the development and transmission of culture.

### **Method:**

Choose one of the Tico Times that highlights a particular person. Have students read the entry and answer the first four questions on the Cultural Comparison worksheet.

As a class define culture as a set of patterns, values, traditions, and customs. Ask students what they feel would be important to tell Costa Ricans about their cultural traditions. These could be sporting events, holidays, foods, etc.

Have students answer questions 5-9 on the Cultural Comparison worksheet.

Discuss some of the factors that shape culture (religion, language, history, economic systems, etc.) Have students try to infer which factor directly leads to the formation of each cultural tradition discussed.

Have students write an expository narrative that describes a cultural tradition unique to their particular family.

## Cultural Comparisons

Read a Tico Times about a particular person. From the entry, what did you learn about this person's culture? What similarities and differences can be found between this new culture and your own? What makes your culture interesting?

1. What language does this person speak? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is this person's occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Where does this person live? Be as specific as possible.

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4. Name two aspects of this person's life that are different than your own.

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5. What are two cultural traditions that are most important to you?

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6. How did you learn these cultural traditions?

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7. Who else practices these cultural traditions?

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8. What is your favorite food?

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9. Describe a tradition that is unique to your own family.

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