

Title: My Own Cultural Traditions

Subject: Language Arts

Grade: 3rd-6th

Time: 45 minutes

Objective: Students will understand what a cultural tradition is, how one is formed, and what cultural events shape their personal lives. Students will understand the importance of differences between different cultural traditions by taking pride in their own family's traditions.

Illinois Standards and Goals:

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:

Innitiate a discussion of what a cultural tradition is, how they take form in society, and their importance to the members of a certain culture. Talk about how some traditions are combinations of others, and that most come from a particular culture. Make sure to establish the differentiation between cultural traits and familial traditions.

Have students think about their personal traditions by answering the My Cultural Traditions worksheet.

Have students gather in groups or pairs and present their findings to the other members of group.

Lesson Extensions:

Have students present a cultural food or cultural tradition to the class by bringing in visual aides or members of their family to help explain where the tradition comes from, its role in the culture or family, and how it has changed over time.

My Cultural Traditions

Each family has a unique set of cultural traditions. Since the United States is made up of a number of cultures, many traditions are practiced throughout the US. Even though, you may think that everyone's family celebrates in a similar way or eats the same foods, you probably don't. Difference is what makes all the cultures unique and special. Share some of the events and practices that make your family unique.

1. What are four holidays your family gathers to celebrate?

2. What is the best meal your mom or dad makes? Is it made for any particular or special reason?

3. What is the best meal one of your grandparents makes? Is it made for any particular or special reason?

4. What household chores do you have to perform each week?

5. Where did you go on your most recent family vacation?

6. What was your favorite vacation you've ever been on?

7. Think about the last time you were sick. What did you do to make yourself feel better?
