

SOCIAL STUDIES · GRADES 1–4

Celebrating Cultures

Around the world

Every culture is rich

Every country has its own traditions — special foods, special clothes, special music, special celebrations. Learning about other cultures doesn't mean your own is less special. It means we live in a world full of beautiful, different ways of being human.

Eight cultures to explore

<p>Japan</p> <p>Cherry blossom festival in spring. Tea ceremonies. Origami (paper folding). Sushi and ramen. Bowing to greet people. Calligraphy as an art.</p>	<p>Mexico</p> <p>Day of the Dead in November — colourful celebration honouring ancestors. Mariachi music. Tortillas and tamales. Beautiful tile work and pottery.</p>
<p>India</p> <p>Diwali — festival of lights with candles and fireworks. Saris and turbans. Cricket. Bhangra dancing. Spicy food with rice and breads called naan.</p>	<p>Ghana</p> <p>Drumming and dancing celebrations. Kente cloth — bright woven patterns. Jollof rice (a famous national dish). Strong storytelling tradition.</p>
<p>Brazil</p> <p>Carnival — biggest party in the world before Easter. Samba dancing. Football is everywhere. Capoeira (a dance-fighting art).</p>	<p>Greece</p> <p>Easter is the biggest celebration. Smashing plates at parties. Olive oil in everything. Ancient ruins and outdoor markets.</p>
<p>Australia</p> <p>BBQs in any weather. Indigenous Aboriginal art and Dreamtime stories. Beach culture. Surf life-saving.</p>	<p>Morocco</p> <p>Mint tea poured from high up. Souks (busy markets). Tagine cooking pots. Beautiful patterned tiles. Traditional clothing called djellabas.</p>



Things to think and talk about

1. Pick one culture from above. What three things would you most want to try?
2. What's a tradition in YOUR family or community? It might come from your country, your religion, or just something your family does.
3. Why is it important to learn about cultures different from our own?
4. If a child from one of these countries came to your school, what would you most want to show them about your culture?

Going deeper

If you can, invite people into the classroom who can share their culture first-hand — parents, community members, school staff. A 10-minute talk from someone who lives a tradition is worth more than 100 worksheets. Most cultures are also shared through FOOD — cooking a simple recipe from a different country is a wonderful way to bring this topic to life.

