



Name: _____

Class: _____

Classroom Activities: Understanding Multiculturalism (Grade 7-10)

May 5, 2019



In the current global and media climate, understanding the facts about multiculturalism is more important than ever for our youth.

Acknowledge and explore multiculturalism as a class with a bread-tasting, join the dots between arts and cultures and encourage your students to critically engage with media sources through an exploration of the immigration debate.

The following activities are designed for middle and high school students using resources from Britannica School and other online sources. Contact your librarian to find out if your institution already has access to Britannica School or claim your own [free trial](#).

Unit Title

Multiculturalism

Year Level

7-10

Key Learning Areas

History; Social Studies / Humanities and Social Sciences

Assessment

- Various work samples based on tasks completed e.g. information report, art piece or family tree.
- Observation of students as they research and work through the task elements.
- Observation of discussions.

Resources:

- Internet access
- Device
- Samples of different types of bread
- Art supplies

Introduction:

Multiculturalism is the view that **cultures**, races, and **ethnicities**, particularly those of minority groups, deserve special acknowledgement of their differences within a dominant political culture.

Teaching Strategies / Learning Experiences:

The following resources and activity sets can be expanded into lesson plans, distributed as guided study resources or used to frame further group discussions. Supporting media can be displayed on an interactive whiteboard or projector to encourage collaboration in a classroom environment.

Activity: A Bite of Diversity

Many different cultures around the world serve bread as a staple food. The **breaking of bread** builds connection, breaks down barriers and often signify the start of community meals.

An accessible way for students to develop a tangible understanding of multiculturalism is by allowing them to see and even taste the variety of breads which are traditional to different cultures. Select from our list of suggestions below or go in with the lot! (Remember to be aware of dietary requirements and allergies within your class.)

Country/Culture	Bread	Country/Culture	Bread
Armenia	Lavash	Italy	Pizza or Ciabatta
Australia	Damper	Japan	Sweet Bun (Anpan)
Belgium	Waffle	Latin America	Sopapillas
China	Mantou	Mexico	Corn Tortillas
Egypt	Flatbread	New Zealand	Māori Sourdough Potato (Rewena)
France	Baguette or Brioche	Philippines	Pandesal
Germany	Pretzel	Poland	Bagel
Great Britain	Cob Loaf or Cottage Loaf	Spain	Tortilla
Greece	Pitas	United States	Corn Bread
India	Naan		

Discuss in class who eats these breads and the countries where they are most popular. Students use Britannica School to conduct research into one or more culture or country and present their information creatively.

In their research findings, students should include the following:

- An introduction to the Country or Culture
- Land and Climate
- Flora and Fauna
- Government
- Brief History
- People and Culture (including traditions and customs)

Activity: Culturally Diverse Art

Many cultures have different pieces of art or symbols that represent their beliefs and traditions. Develop an appreciation for the significance of various artistic symbols by investigating their meanings and origins. Extend the exercise by letting students recreate their own in class.

- Greek Heritage – [Komboloi](#) or Worry Beads

Traditionally used for relaxation and to remove worries and concerns.

[How to Make Worry Beads](#)

- Mexican Culture – [Tissue Flowers or Crepe Folding](#)

Tissue or crepe flowers are used to decorate streets, houses and churches during festivals and holidays.

[How to Make Mexican Tissue Flowers](#)

- Chinese Heritage – Chinese Dragon

The Chinese Dragon is a symbol of good fortune, a dragon dance highlights [Chinese New Year](#) celebrations for many Chinese communities.

Design and illustrate a [Chinese dragon dance](#) costume.

- Japanese Heritage – [Origami](#)

Origami is the art of creating objects by folding a sheet of paper in precise steps. The created forms range from simple figures to complex designs complete with moving parts. Originally used for ceremonial purposes, origami today is a handicraft enjoyed worldwide.

[How to Make an Origami Rhinoceros](#)

Activity: Create a Family Tree

Read the Britannica School articles on [immigration](#) and [migration](#). Using their family history, students create a family tree. Students share their family tree with the class to help them appreciate that most of us have diverse backgrounds and personal links to other countries.

Activity: Immigration in Media

Use online or print media to collect recent news headlines about immigration. Were there any that portrayed a negative image? As a class, analyse the impact of these headlines on our attitudes towards diversity and multiculturalism. The following questions can be used to guide discussions:

- Are the headlines factual or based on opinion?
- What stereotypical images do they create?
- Are these images a true or fair representation?

Extension:

It is important to know and understand facts about immigration before making any judgements. Conduct a class debate around the topic: "Should our/other countries' borders be open or closed to immigration?"

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