# My Family Tradition

This lesson is associated with the book, *Around the World in the Blink of an Eye*. If you are interested in purchasing this book, please call 1-800-661-2633 ext. 245.

## GRADE

4-5

## LEARNING GOAL

Students share the traditions and heritage of their own family while learning about others. Students develop an understanding of the importance of demonstrating respect of others and celebrating diversity in their classroom.

## SOCIAL STUDIES CONCEPTS

**Interrelationships** Students explore connections within and between human systems, including how they adapt to and have an impact on one another.

## TIME

Two periods and time at home to ask their parents for information.

## MATERIALS

Photocopies of the *Success Criteria Checklist*. Colour paper, scissors, magazines, markers for student collages. Paper and pencil or access to laptops for written work.

**A) Discuss**

Each page in the book shows a different part of the world. Some foods, activities, traditions are related to different cultures or groups of people.

- Why do you think people in different parts of the world eat different foods or play different games? (climate, geography, historical traditions)
- Do your parents or family members like to make food for you that they ate when they were young? Do they read books or play games from their childhood?
- What does the word 'Tradition' mean?
    - Write definition on the board, **Tradition**: *a belief, custom or information that is passed down from one generation to the next*
- Thinking Exercise: What traditions do you participate in at home or within your family? Maybe it's something you do every week or once a year, maybe only on birthdays or holidays. Maybe its food, an activity, a song or prayer, a piece of clothing, etc.

**B) Activity**

1. Students choose any tradition in their family that they will share with their classmates.
2. Students can represent this tradition through a short written piece (half a page) or a collage of photos and images, with a few sentences to explain their tradition. They should include why this tradition is important in their family/home and how it makes them feel.
3. Students can use the Success Criteria Checklist below.

*Success Criteria*

1. Option 1: Written piece
   - ✓ Have I used appropriate vocabulary to explain my tradition?
   - ✓ Have I written enough? (at least half a page)
   - ✓ Have I explained what the tradition is and what is included?
   - ✓ Have I included why this tradition is important to me?
2. Option 2: Collage image
   - ✓ Have I used appropriate images and colours to represent my tradition?
   - ✓ Have I explained what the tradition is and what is included?
   - ✓ Have I included why this tradition is important to me?

**C) Reflection**

Explain to students the importance of respecting others and their traditions. Emphasize that when students ask questions that should be respectful and positive.
After students have created their pieces, ask them to share with each other, maybe in small groups or to the class. Encourage students to ask each other questions to better understand the tradition they are sharing.

Ask your students:

- We heard many different traditions throughout the class. Some are related to religion, some to culture, some to family, friends or their community. How do traditions bring people together?
- How are some traditions different? How are they the same?
- Do you think people in different parts of the world have traditions? How would they be different or similar to ours?

## EXTENSIONS

If possible, invite parents and guardians in to the classroom to share their traditions or heritage with your students. Invite students to bring in artefacts from their heritage, play music or a video of specific activities, etc.

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# Family Traditions

## Written - Success Criteria Checklist

Name _____

Written work

- □ I have used appropriate vocabulary to explain my tradition?
- □ I have written at least half of a page
- □ I have fully explained my tradition
- □ I have included why this tradition is important to me and my family

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# Family Traditions

## Collage - Success Criteria Checklist

Name _____

Collage Image

- □ I have used appropriate images and colours to represent my tradition
- □ I have explained what the tradition is and what is included
- □ I have included why this tradition is important to me