

Exploring Different Cultures: Preschool-2nd Grade

A RIF Guide for Educators

Themes: Cultures, Languages, Traditions, Holidays, Food, Art, Music

Book Brief: This guide is designed for use with books about exploring different cultures at the Preschool-2nd Grade reading level. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

Content Connections: ELA, Social Studies, Art, Music, World Languages

Time To Read!

Before we read, let's look at...

The Cover: What is the title of this book? Who is the author? Who is the illustrator? What is happening in the cover illustration? Based on the cover, what do you think we will learn about another culture?

Prior Knowledge: "Culture" refers to a set of common experiences, like language, art, music, traditions, and holidays, that a group of people share. Have you ever heard of the culture featured in this book before? Do you know any words in this language? Have you ever tried food, seen art, or listened to music from this culture?

Vocabulary: Identify 3-5 words that are likely to be new to your students and introduce them before you read this book with your class.

Purpose for Reading: It's important to be able to use words and images together to understand a text. As we read, think about how the illustrations help you to understand elements of this culture that the words describe.

While We Read

Monitoring Comprehension

- What is the main topic of this book?
- What are some important facts you learned about the main topic?
- Describe one way the environment affects the culture you read about. (For example, climate might affect housing or clothing. Local food sources might affect diet.)
- What is the author's purpose for writing? What does the author want to answer, explain, or describe?

Let's Think About

Our Purpose: Choose two or three examples from the book and explain how the pictures help you understand what the words tell you. What do you learn from the pictures that you wouldn't know if you just read the words?

Extending Our Thinking: Have students identify several items that are representative of the culture in the book. This might include musical instruments, pieces of visual art, holiday decorations, or traditional clothing. Then have students identify items in the same category from their own culture. Discuss how the items are similar and how they are different. This will help students begin to learn how culture is defined and how their own culture is similar to and different from that of others.