

Cultural Celebration Around the World



Book Builder

GEOGRAPHY

Overview

Students research a celebration from a culture other than their own and present it accurately and respectfully.

Steps for Teachers

1. Discuss what makes a celebration meaningful to the people who hold it
2. Students choose a celebration from a culture that is not their own
3. Students research its origin, when it happens, what people do and what it means
4. Students find a first-hand source: a video, an interview or a written account by someone who celebrates it
5. Students plan pages: origin, timing, preparations, the day itself, meaning
6. Students write each page explaining the meaning behind the practice, not just the practice
7. Students add a final page noting one thing they got wrong before they researched it

Example

A student researches Nowruz. The preparations page explains the haft-sin table one item at a time and why each stands for a kind of renewal. The last page reads: 'I thought it was Persian New Year's Eve. It is actually the exact moment spring begins, which is a different time every year.'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Cultural Accuracy	Details are correct and drawn from sources close to the culture	Details are mostly correct from secondary sources	Details are inaccurate or conflated with another culture
Meaning Over Spectacle	The book explains why practices matter, not only what they look like	Some meaning is explained, some practices left as decoration	The book describes only the visible surface
Respectful Portrayal	The culture is presented on its own terms, without othering	Mostly respectful with an occasional outsider framing	Portrayal is exoticising or stereotyped
Book Craft	Text is easy to read, art supports every page, and the layout is consistent throughout	Pages are readable with some crowding or uneven placement	Text overlaps art or is hard to read; layout is inconsistent