

Cultures Around the World Pathfinder

The purpose of this pathfinder is to be an additional research tool when learning about various cultures with a focus on African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics. The information will be very beneficial to students, teachers, and parents for use in projects and the classroom. The resources presented in the pathfinder provide an in depth look into the customs, daily living, food, and holidays of the African American, Asian, and Hispanic cultures. Many of the resources also include or provide links to biographical information and photographs of daily living.

The 2000 census and local statistics show that the racial background of our community is changing dramatically and at a rapid pace. It is of utmost concern to the school district that students learn to have a respect for each other even though cultural diversity exists. The three cultures that are growing most rapidly are African American, Asian, and Hispanic. So this pathfinder, in conjunction with the program Cultures Around the World, will place its focus on these three cultures. It is hoped that this pathfinder will help people raise their awareness of various cultures and thereby create an understanding and tolerance for others.

Multiple Cultures:

[Children's Games from Around the World](#)

Visit other countries to see how our games are alike and different. Actually view children from different countries playing common games. You are able to choose various games such as: jump rope, hopscotch, tag, sticks & stones, marbles, paper & cards, tops, consequence, and toddler games. After choosing a game and selecting a country of choice, you can see the rules and pictures for how children play the game in their country.

[Classrooms of the Millennium](#)

Learn about meals, customs, education, clothing, sports, families, transportation, and entertainment of various cultures. There are also many high quality photographs available for viewing.

[Cultural Connections](#)

Using this web site designed by teachers, visit any of seventeen countries from around the world. Learn about the culture, people, foods, music, and history of each. Choose to view information, photographs, maps, or facts of the country of choice. You can learn about the language, fun facts, or how to do a fun activity from that country. This site also provides lessons and objectives for teachers to coordinate the information into the elementary classroom. Students can even ask an e-pal questions to find out more about a country.

African American Culture:

[Africa Online: Kids Only](#)

Read a Kenyan magazine, [Rainbow Magazine](#), play African games, and decode messages to learn about Africa. You can also link to web pages that many African schools have on the Internet. See what they are doing in their schools to find out how it is the same or different than the United States. There's a place to log questions and several interesting links to sites to

learn more about Africa. However, this site is for adults too. There are many articles about the history and current events of Africa.

[African Odyssey Interactive](#)

"The purpose of African Odyssey Interactive is to promote an ongoing exchange of ideas, information, and resources between artists, teachers, and students of African arts and culture." The Arts and Education resource provides dozens of annotated links for learning and teaching about African arts and culture. Link to many resources through visual and performing arts, history and geography, K-12 arts and teaching resources, and African Diaspora resources. There are also interactive opportunities through listservs, chats, forums, and on-line projects.

[The Encyclopedia Britannica Guide to Black History](#)

Examine five centuries of black heritage from the slave revolts of early America through the Civil Rights Movement using biographies and photos of important people and descriptions and documents of historic events. There are over 600 articles with film clips, audio recordings, and photographs. This site also provides related Internet links and study guides for students.

Asian Culture:

[Chinese New Year](#)

Explore all the details of the 15-day celebration from the first New Moon of the new year until the Lantern Festival on the first full moon. Learn about the 15 days of celebration, traditional New Year foods, and Chinese New Year decorations. Also, read about the taboos and superstitions of Chinese New Year and the Zodiac. Links are provided to learn about the abacus, Harvest Moon Festival, and Chinese accomplishments. There is also a link to the China Home Page for those interested in learning about other aspects of the culture.

[The Electronic Passport to Southeast Asia](#)

Visit any of the countries in Southeast Asia to learn about how the native people live. Most of the countries have "cool links" available to research the cultures more in depth. Some photographs and many maps are provided for a clearer understanding. Visitors to this site can learn many exciting things like how to write or speak Chinese. Written information about other parts of the world is also provided but the best information is about Asia.

[The Kids' Zone Time Machine](#)

Travel around to parts of Asia and learn about the various cultures: their traditions, customs, and daily lives. Look at photographs of important places and people in their daily activities. You can participate in live discussions with the Trekkers in chat rooms, post your thoughts on a discussion board, or e-mail the Trekkers directly. Teacher resources are provided for use in the classroom and the site is updated as the Trekkers travel.

Hispanic Culture:

[Celebrate Hispanic Heritage](#)

Explore this site in English or Spanish to find activities for celebrating the Hispanic heritage in the classroom. To learn about the roots of Hispanic Heritage in America, participate in activities and use on-line maps to learn the meaning, depth, and pride of their heritage. Information about organizations that promote the growth, culture, and education of the Hispanic community, quality resources and effective lesson plans are provided.

[Cinco de Mayo for Kids and Teachers](#)

The history of the Cinco de Mayo celebration that was started in the United States by Chicanos is the basis for this site. Detailed information is given and links about Mexican History of Independence, U.S./Mexico Wars, the Battle of Puebla, Mexican reforms, and biographies of important Chicanos are provided. This site is a great resource for the classroom because teachers can access ideas for lesson plans, songs, finger plays, activities, games, worksheets, and clip art.

[Dia de Los Muertos \(Day of the Dead\)](#)

The Day of the Dead has many misconceptions; one being that the celebration is morbid and pagan. This myth and others are dispelled with a detailed history of the celebration and how it correlates with All Saint's Day and All Souls Day. Visitors to this site can learn more about this day that honors ancestors. They can read about the history, food, events, and altars and also view photographs of the Day of the Dead celebration to find out how it impacts the Hispanic culture.

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Spring 2001