



## 4 Ways to find your Cultural Resources

### 1. Poll your parents!

Parents are always honored to be asked about their own cultural traditions. Use this opportunity to learn more about the families in your school and about the culture they can share with you. Imagine if you only have one child per year who comes from a family from outside of the United States, after 12 years you've got 12 awesome resources gathered up! Make a list below of some students who may have families from another part of the world. Be sure to reach out to those parents to find out if they are willing to share something with the class or with you to use in the class.

### 2. Reach out to International Teachers

This will take a little bit of time, but could open up a lot of doors for you and your students.

1. Start with a search of the international schools in the country you want to teach to your students.
2. Search for facebook groups of teachers at international schools
3. Try to build a relationship with the teacher and her class by coordinating a cultural exchange that would be mutually beneficial.

Below start listing out your findings of schools and teachers you think would be a good match.



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In the Space below, list out some ideas you have about a cultural exchange with an international school.

### 3. Look for official websites in your chosen country

Finding information on the internet that you can trust is often hard. One way to be sure you are focusing your lessons around information that is important to a country's culture is by finding their country's government regulated websites. Normally these sites will also be available in English and you can also contact them with very specific questions. Their job is to promote the culture and tourism in their country - so your inquiries are welcome! Start listing below the websites that you find and what type of information they are providing you.

### 4. Find a cultural expert.

This person can be local or not. Sometimes it's nice to find a person who is close by because they may be able to come in and share with your students. Search for dancers, musicians, artists, and storytellers from the culture you have chosen. These types of industries are rich in culture, history and traditions so you will get a lot of information from them. Keep a running list below of your search findings.



## How to engage your students with Cultural Diversity

Now that you have authentic resources and you have the information from them to start creating as lesson, it's time to start doing what you know you do best!

### 1. Choose the topic

Which part of the history, tradition or legend did you find the most fascinating and just knew would be engaging for your students? List the top three findings below.

### 2. Match this up to your own curriculum.

Depending on where you teach and what subject you teach, you probably have curriculum standards that you must comply with. Using your top three topic choices, jot down your initial lesson ideas that you think would fit in with your curriculum requirements.

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## How to engage your students with Cultural Diversity

### 3. Narrow down the topics

You can easily see now which topics are stronger for curriculum integration. So let's take the strongest topic and develop it. List three activities around this topic that will reinforce the concept. Try to use a visual, auditory and kinesthetic activities to meet various learning styles.

Visual 

Kinesthetic 

Auditory 



## How to engage your students with Cultural Diversity

### 4. Goal Setting

Take a moment to reflect on your topic, your three activities and the standard you are meeting. What is the common thread. For example, My topic is The Loch Ness Monster from Scotland. (Super engaging for kids!) One of my activities is reading a story book about Loch Ness and then having the students arrange reading comprehension strips into the sequence of events. Another activity is to have the students use a sticky note to write down things that they learned while reading the story. I notice that the comprehension of the story works really well with this book and the activities I put together. So one of the goals of these lesson should be reading comprehension.

Once we have some of these lesson goals in place, we can go back and adjust our activities slightly in order to be more goal focused. Realizing you are still sticking to that super engaging cultural topic!

Goal

Goal

Notes on changing lesson activities to meet goals



## How to engage your students with Cultural Diversity

### 5. Assessement

Now it's time to think about how you want to assess the students. It should match up with the goal and standard. Teaching our students about cultural diversity shouldn't really be about trying to make sure they have a hitorical date or name memorized, it should be more about how engaged they were in the process. Were they able to understand and enjoy something that differs from their own culture. The assessment doesn't really need to be about the culture, it is about the goal you set for the lesson.

Using the example of The Loch Ness Monster, I would not be assessing the students on the depth of Loch ness (the lake), I would want to assess them on how well they understood the story they read.

Write out your inital ideas about assessment. I like to create an information and formal assessment with each lesson I create.

Informal Assessment Ideas

formal Assessment Ideas

Notes