

Exploring Different Cultures: 3rd-5th 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 3rd-5th 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: Based on the cover, including the title and any illustrations, what culture or cultures is this book about? What are some things you might learn about in this book?

Prior Knowledge: Do you have any experience with this culture? Do you know any words in the language spoken in this culture? Have you tried any food, listened to any music, or seen any art from this culture?

Vocabulary: Identify 8-10 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 identify the main topic and the main idea of a text and to give details about the topic. As we read, identify the main topic of the text and make notes on what details support the main topic.

While We Read

Monitoring Comprehension

- Distinguish between the main topic and the main idea of the book. The main topic is what the book is about, while the main idea is the point the author is making about that 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.)
- Think about how the book is organized. Why do you think the author chose to put information about the topic in this order?
- What did you learn about this culture from text features like keywords and sidebars? How did features like this help you learn more?
- What did you learn about this culture from information in charts, graphs, timelines, or other illustrations?

Let's Think About

Our Purpose: What is the main topic of the book? What is the main idea? Provide several key details and explain how they support the main idea.

Extending Our Thinking: In groups or individually, have students brainstorm some questions they have after reading the book. Have students compose a clear research question and then use print and digital resources to identify 1-2 sources they could use to answer that question. After they have done this, have students write a sentence or two about how finding the answer to this question would help them extend the knowledge they gained from the book.