

Lesson 9: Different Communities

Getting Started

✿ Questions to Explore

- How are communities around the world similar and different?



Facts and Definitions

- Communities can have things that are the same and things that are different.
- **Research** means to look for information when you want to learn more about something or find the answer to a question.

⦿ Skills

- Compare and contrast similarities and differences among individuals and families (SS)
- Locate places on maps (SS)
- Identify and describe characteristics of communities in other parts of the world (SS)
- Describe ways communities around the world meet basic needs (SS)
- Use Venn diagrams to illustrate similarities and differences (M)
- Read and write simple poems (LA)
- Read and comprehend fiction and non-fiction (LA)
- Answer high-level questions about a text (LA)

✂ Materials

- *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats* by Peter Mensel and Faith D'Aluisio* (Introduction - Optional)
- books about Mexico, Canada, or China

Introduction

Ask your child to name and describe some holidays that are celebrated around the world. Ask her which country she would like to learn more about (Mexico, Canada, or China). Explain to her that she will do research on the country she chooses. Research means to look for information in order to learn more about something or to answer a question.

Attempt to locate the book *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats* by Peter Mensel and Faith D'Aluisio at your local library. It is a fascinating pictorial look at what families around the world eat in a week. Discuss the pictures with your child. If you don't have access to the book, you may be able to view many of the images at the websites listed below.



National Public Radio

www.beyondthepage.com/link/12442/

National Public Radio also did a feature about the book.



The Hungry Planet

www.beyondthepage.com/link/12443/

Time Magazine posted a number of the photos from this book on their website.

Activities

Activity 1: Country Research

Read about the country your child selected in books or on the Internet. As she learns new information about the country, she can record it on the graphic organizer called "Country Research." She can draw and label pictures on the page or just record the information.

Activity 2: A Venn Diagram

For this activity, your child will use a Venn diagram to explore similarities and differences between America and the country she chose. Option 2 is more challenging. Select which option you want her to complete.

Option 1

On the page, "A Venn Diagram" (Option 1), your child will think of one thing she learned about the country that is different from America and one thing about America that is different from the country. In the middle she will record something that the countries have in common.

Option 2 (advanced)

On the page, "A Venn Diagram" (Option 2), your child will write down two things she learned about the country that makes it different from America and two things about America that make it different from the country she is learning about. In the middle, she will list two things that the countries have in common.

Activity 3: Similarities and Differences

On the "Similarities and Differences" page, your child will write the name of the country on the line in the upper left corner. Then she will draw a child from the country in clothing that the child might wear. She will draw and label two goods (not food), a home, and two types of food that can be found in the country.

In the box that says "America," she can draw a picture of an American child, draw and label two goods (not food), an example of a home, and two foods that Americans eat.

Activity 4: An Acrostic Poem

For this activity, your child will complete an acrostic poem for the country she has been researching. Choose which option you want her to complete.

Option 1

For this option, you will need to write the outline of the acrostic poem on a separate piece of paper. Choose the poem based on the country your child selected:

Country Acrostic Poems

MEXICO	CHINA	CANADA
Major holiday is _____ Eat _____ eXcited about _____ I want to see _____ Children _____ Only place you can _____	Children like to _____ Houses look like _____ I want to see _____ Near _____ Around town you see _____	Children _____ All people _____ Near _____ Around town you see _____ Discover _____ Ask about _____

Option 2 (advanced)

Your child will create her own acrostic poem for this option. To write the poem, your child will take the letters in the country and write them on a sheet of paper vertically. Next, she will think of a word or group of words that describes the country for each letter in the poem.

Wrapping Up

Ask your child to describe what she learned about the country she has been researching. Ask her what she would do if she ever visited the country.

Life Application

Find someone in your community who is from the country your child researched. Ask your child to write down five questions she would like to ask the person about his or her native country.

Country Research

Directions: Find information about a country. Record it in the graphic organizer.



Food

Goods

Homes

Clothing

Holidays

Directions: Make a Venn diagram comparing an American community to a different community.

(country)

A Community in America

[illegible]

Directions: Make a Venn diagram comparing an American community to a different community.

A Community in America

(country)

1

1.

1.

2.

2.

2.

Similarities and Differences



- 1. Draw a picture of an American child.
- 2. Draw a picture of a child from another country.
- 3. Draw two goods for each child.
- 4. Draw a home for each child.
- 5. Draw food from each country.

A child from:

A child from

AMERICA