

HONORING TRADITIONS

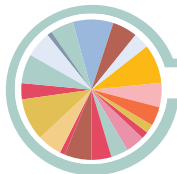
These songs and activities will help students appreciate the cultural diversity of our nation and world and understand the common values and experiences all cultures share.

“We Love Our Children” *CD track 9*

“Eh-un-lan-weh-seh-un-lan” (Arabic greeting to a stranger) *CD track 17*

“Boker Tov” (Hebrew: “Good Morning”) *CD track 18*

“Dream of Harmony” *CD track 23*



I WILL BE YOUR FRIEND

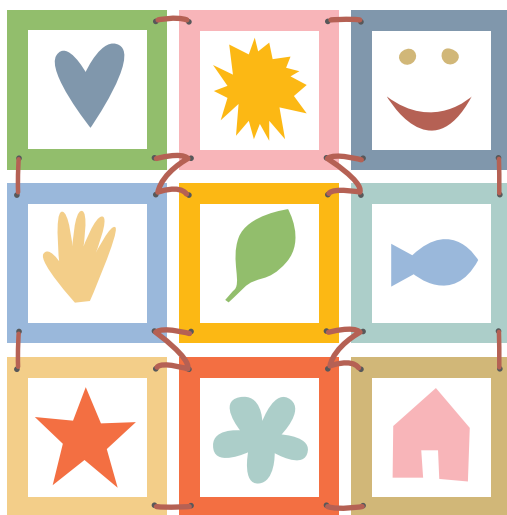
A Quilt of Many Cultures

Share the following quote with students and use it to initiate a discussion about the culturally diverse composition of our nation:

“America is not like a blanket — one piece of unbroken cloth, the same color, the same texture, the same size. America is more like a quilt — many pieces, many colors, many sizes, all woven and held together by a common thread.”

— *Jesse Jackson, civil rights and political activist*

How many different cultures are represented in your classroom alone? What is the common thread that ties us together as Americans? Following your discussion, create a class quilt that reflects the cultural heritage of all students. Provide children with 8-inch squares of white paper. Ask each child to draw an image or create a collage that depicts some aspect of his or her cultural background: a symbol, custom, celebration, value or belief, etc. Or, if students prefer, they can include a poem, song, recipe, proverb, etc. Have students mount their quilt patches on 10-inch squares of colored construction paper. (You may want to make the squares sturdier by gluing them to cardboard backing.) Use a hole punch and yarn or embroidery thread to tie the patches together. Display the quilt and allow time for each child to talk about the patch he or she created and its cultural significance.



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