

Name(s)

1

Date

Grade: 2

United States Cultural influences

Standards:

2.1 Compare the beliefs, customs, ceremonies, and traditions of the varied cultures represented in the United States by researching informational texts.

2.3 Compare and contrast various cultures in the United States by engaging in collaborative conversations with partners.

2.4 Write an expository paragraph about another culture represented in the United States, introducing the topic, using facts and definitions to develop points, and providing a concluding statement.

Objective:

Students will learn about different cultures and traditions represented in the U.S. by conducting research and creating a story quilt displaying the information they have found.

Requirements for Students:

For this project, students will choose one partner and conduct research together on a chosen culture of the United States. Students will then use the information they found to produce a story quilt scrapbook page. All of the students will present their finished story quilts and we will have a classroom discussion on the different cultures, traditions, etc that make up the people of the U.S. The quilts must include: pictures, facts (captions), decorations that go with the culture, etc. BE CREATIVE. The students will also need to write a paragraph about the culture using the information they researched. The paragraph needs to include the topic, using the facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a conclusion statement.

How Students will be Assessed:

Students will be assessed using a rubric. The rubric will address the partner participation of the research conducted, the traditions included, pictures and text included, and creativity. A sample of the rubric is included below.

Grading Rubric

Partner participation during research	10 pts.
Quilt includes top 2-3 traditions of the chosen culture	5 pts.
Quilt includes pictures and text	5 pts.
Creativity	5 pts.
Total Score	25 pts.

Alaskan Native Traditions

There are 11 distinct cultures in the state of Alaska. The top 3 traditions listed below are aspects of all 11 cultures.

- Winter- “the time we gathered together”
 - celebrations and ceremonies that revolve around relationships between humans, animals, and the spirit world
- Lives were organized according to animals and plants that they hunted and gathered.
- Reincarnation and recycling of spirit forms from one life to the next is an important facet to everyday life.
- <http://www.alaskanative.net/en/main-nav/education-and-programs/cultures-of-alaska/>

Native Hawaiian Traditions

- Flower Lei: Traditional leis were worn as symbols, worn during religious events, symbolized distinguishment or rank, were given during birth, death, peace settlements, or war victory. Native Hawaiian’s celebrate Lei Day on May 1st. Celebrations include making and exchanging leis, music, entertainment, and local food.
- True Meaning of Aloha: Literally means “the presence of breath” or “breath of life”. Aloha is not just a word, it is a way of life. Aloha means to love and respect others. Aloha Fridays- companies allow their employees to wear aloha attire every Friday. Today nearly every business celebrates Aloha Friday.
- Hula: Began as a religious dance to worship their gods, Two major hula events that occur each year: Merrie Monarch Festival- hula competitions, King Kamehameha Traditional Hula Event and Chant Competition.
- <http://www.to-hawaii.com>

Asian American Traditions

- Mehndi- an Indian tradition described in the earliest Hindu Vedic ritual book
- Chinese New Year- an important Chinese tradition-lasts 15 days
- The Cherry Blossom-a Vietnam tradition-flower
- Pahiyas Festival- Philippine tradition
- Bali tradition- Balinese Dance
- Korean tradition- Koreans dress in a traditional way