

Lesson Focus: What do you think about when you hear “customs and traditions”?



Materials:

- Internet for videos
- Notebook and pencil (Optional: computer with word processing software)

Invitation to Learn:

In this lesson you will gather your thoughts on the many different traditions that Canadians have.



Grade 3 Social Studies: November 16 – November 20, 2020

Ask:

Look at the descriptions below. Can you add an example of each in the last column next to the description?

Term	Description	Example?
Culture/custom	It is the way we live our lives. It includes everyday things, such as what we eat or what we wear. It also includes special things, such as celebrations and traditions.	
Traditions	These are ideas and ways of doing things that are passed on from adults to children in families and communities.	
Heritage	This is all the cultures in your family's past. Communities, provinces, and countries also have heritages that are made up of the cultures of all the people who have lived there.	
Diversity	means "interesting differences." Diversity is what you will find when you begin to research cultures.	

Read the following snippets of information. Think about how the information might relate to culture, customs or traditions.

CHINA (by Ekaterina Zhdanova-Redman)

https://www.edhelper.com/ReadingComprehension_Geography_19_1.html

China is one of the planet's oldest civilizations. It has a written history of 4,000 years and boasts rich cultural relics and historical sites. Together with ancient Egypt, Babylon and India, China is recognized as one of the four great ancient civilizations of the world. Moreover, it is the only ancient civilization that has continued to this very day.



- ² Archaeological studies have revealed that around 5,000 years ago the Chinese entered the stage of patriarchal society. Not only did villages begin to appear but also the initial forms of cities began to become evident.
- ³ China was one of the most powerful countries of the ancient world; occupying a leading position in the development of productivity and technology. Ancient China enjoyed and developed agriculture and advanced irrigation system, an independent tradition of medicine and advanced botanical knowledge.
- ⁴ China's so called "four great inventions"-the compass, gunpowder, movable type printing, and papermaking-not only changed the world but also accelerated the evolution of world history. China was also rich in ceramics and silk textiles, great inventions that had a tremendous influence in the world. Chinese porcelain with abstract blue-and-white patterns is still popular worldwide.

VIETNAM (by Ekaterina Zhdanova-Redman)

¹ Vietnam is sometimes called the "jewel of southeast Asia," and for good reason. It comes from the country's natural beauty, as well as the beauty of its people and customs. As you will learn, religion and tradition are very important parts of Vietnamese culture.



Figure 1: Salt harvesting

² There are three main religions in Vietnam. They are Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. Peace with oneself and others is an important part of all three, but there are important differences between them, too.

³ Buddhism is the largest religion in Vietnam. It involves the worship of the god Buddha and the respect of his teachings. At one point in Vietnam's history, it was the official religion. It isn't the official religion anymore, but it is still the most popular.

Mexico

By Ekaterina Zhdanova-Redman

¹ Mexico is situated in the Northern American continent, sharing its northern border with the United States. It is bounded on the west and south by the Pacific Ocean, to the east by the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, and on the southeast by Guatemala and Belize. The official name of Mexico is the United Mexican States, and its capital is Mexico City.



² In the middle of the 20th century, scientists discovered several ancient cities, located in the jungles of Mexico. The world was amazed with what they had found: gigantic pyramids with stairs to their tops, monumental palaces, and cathedrals full of sophisticated art, showing unknown civilizations and their gods.



Figure 2: Pyramid

³ Those cities are locations of ancient Mexico's civilizations of the Olmec, Maya, and Aztec. These sites of ancient culture, along with beautiful Caribbean nature, attract lots of tourists to Mexico. In fact, tourism is one of the dominant industries in the country.

Japan

By Ekaterina Zhdanova-Redman

¹ Japan is a small island country off the eastern coast of Asia. Japan's capital is Tokyo. It is home to some of the world's greatest ancient traditions, natural beauty, and art.



² Japan's land is made up of four main islands and is full of beautiful landscapes.

There are many mountains across Japan. Several volcanoes are located on the Japanese islands, including the well-known Mount Fuji. This mountain has been one of the favorite subjects of Japanese art throughout the country's history.

³ Heavy rains are very common in Japan. The rain is good for plants, which cover much of the land. The rain helps in rice farming, which has been an important part of Japanese life. In fact, some of the earliest Japanese people brought rice farming with them from China.

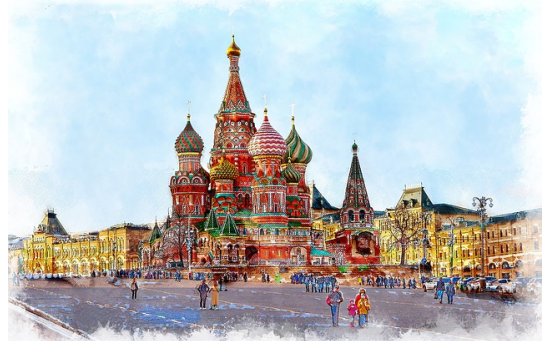
⁴ Rice farmers united to create villages, and, around 100 B.C., began forming social classes, dividing the rich farm owners from smaller farmers. These villages and classes helped to create Japan's first government under the leadership of an emperor. In early Japanese history, there was no capital city; emperors moved from town to town.

⁵ In the 8th Century, the first Japanese capital was created in a city called Nara. Many places of Buddhist worship were built in Nara. Among them is one of the largest wooden buildings in the world. It still stands today.

Russia - Traditions and Daily Life

By Ekaterina Zhdanova-Redman

¹ A major trend in Russia from the 1890s to the late 20th century was the movement of people from the European portion into Siberia and the Far East, the latter regions occupying three-fourths of the nation's territory but containing only about one-fifth of its population.



² Even though there are many big cities in Russia, the majority of the population lives in smaller towns and villages. These are considered to be provincial places, as opposed to major urban territories, like Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Omsk, and others.

³ Many of those in smaller towns and villages usually live in the private houses and own some land around the house where they grow fruits and vegetables. Many of those houses, called "izba," are built of wood, and have enclosed stoves in them for heating and cooking.

Greece - Traditions and Daily life

By Ekaterina Zhdanova-Redman

¹ Many parts of modern Greek life come from its history. Almost 2,000 years ago, Greece began the way of life we see today. In fact, this early Greek way of life has become a part of many countries. Many people call the Greeks the founders of Western civilization.



² The Greeks were the first to have a democracy. Democracy means that all citizens have a right to participate. Greece is still a democracy, and many other

countries are democracies now, too.

³ Today about 10 million people live in Greece. Many live in Greece's countryside. Some live in the cities. One of Greece's largest cities is Athens. Athens is the capital of Greece. Athens has always been at the center of Greek culture. The early Greeks built large theaters and government buildings. They even built kinds of shopping malls, called "stoas."

Italy - Culture

By Ekaterina Zhdanova-Redman

¹ The 20th century has seen the transformation of Italy from a highly traditional, agricultural society to a progressive, industrialized state. There are many differences in people's daily lives in different places of Italy--Rome, Milan, Venice, Sicily, and others. All of them combined make a unique picture of the Italian lifestyle.



² The majority of the population of Italy lives in cities and villages; only a fraction live in hamlets or in isolated houses. From antiquity, Mediterranean peoples have had highly developed urban centers. Today, there are four cities in Italy with a population of more than 1,000,000 (Rome, Milan, Turin, and Naples); but there are many other large cities in Italy, and almost half of them are on or near the sea.

³ A number of cities have merged into enormous metropolitan complexes, sometimes characterized as mega-cities, such as those surrounding Milan. Severe congestion and pollution are the result of a growing population and high level of automobile ownership in Italy.

⁴ The capital of Italy--the city of Rome--today is a bustling place, full of traffic and crowds. It is amazing how sites of ancient culture and modern urban life coexist together in the modern country. People live alongside the temples,

marketplaces and public buildings of the past.

⁵ There are layers of history in Rome--Etruscan tombs, Senate meeting rooms, Imperial temples, early-Christian churches, medieval bell towers, and Renaissance palaces. One of the most famous ancient constructions of Italy is the Coliseum in Rome. It is a huge arena, called an amphitheater. It was used for staging games and gladiator fights, and was first opened to the public in 80 AD.

Watch these videos:

Canada Oh Canada	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gL8xfxC1fGI
Kids Share Their Cultural Traditions	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xerrjjAyZs8&t=113s
Holidays Around the World	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Sv0ac-W8Vc

Have a Discussion:

Traditions are special things that people do in their families. Traditions are passed on from older family members such as parents and grandparents. Stories, traditions and celebrations are expressions of family and community culture and identity.

Notebook Time:

You have a couple of choices – choose the first or the second option to answer these questions in your notebook. If you have access to a computer, you might wish to use a word processor (eg. Microsoft Word) to record your answers. Use complete sentences.

Option 1:

- What things/special times do you like to celebrate with your family?
- What are some of your family's favourite foods?
- Do any of your family members like to sing, dance, or play an instrument?
- What other things does your family like to do?
- Who in your family has taught you about different foods, music, dances, celebrations etc.?
- Who could you go and talk to if you wanted to learn more about your family traditions?

Option 2:

- **OR** you can choose one or two questions above and write the story of a family tradition. Include what happened, your feelings around it, where you were, why was it important to your family? Make your story come alive – use “juicy interesting words” so that anyone reading it can imagine it.