

A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AND DIVERSITY

Overview

The goal of having a Learning Celebration focused on our personal history is to have kids understand the richness of their own narrative. Having parents involved in both collecting information and providing a sharing opportunity helps kids begin to accept and appreciate diversity. Knowing about our past can help us understand who we are. As kids collect data around their family's unique heritage, they become aware of how their story is different from the story of their peers. Growing up in a country that is becoming increasingly diverse means that it is imperative that kids understand and respect each other's differences. This exposure of individual heritage and culture provides the opportunity to help bridge the norms, attitudes and values of our past to unite us.

Students will then plan how they will present and share their findings at a Cultural Exhibition choosing from the following headings:

1. Map showing both Canada and country of origin
2. Family Tree
3. Timeline of events of several family generations
4. Language chart showing common terms in their native language
5. Food specialties (this could actually be a sample of a typical snack or a picture showing traditional foods)
6. Artifacts (toys, souvenirs)
7. Photographs showing past generations or historical sites
8. A drawing by the student to depict colours important to their country
9. Any traditional clothing that might be worn that is different from our clothing
10. A copy of traditional music of that country or national anthem
11. A major historical event from their past.

Structure

- Using school time students will explore the whole notion of culture and ethnicity.
- With the help of parents' students will learn about their own heritage going back several generations.
- Each student will decide on a family to track for their study (mom's or dad's or both).
- Parents will help their child fill out a questionnaire about their family to help collect information that they will then use at school.
- In this way the country of their heritage study will be identified.
- Using some school time, the parent information questionnaire and technology they will begin to assemble a chronological record of their family history.
- Students will research these countries to learn about language, religion, music, education, values, food, housing, landmarks, clothing, traditions, history, and government.
- Most importantly, have fun!

The role of the parent in the Cultural History Exhibition

- Help their child at home by being forthcoming with family history information
- Locating photographs from ancestors
- Filling out the questionnaire
- Sharing stories from their own growing up time and that of the child's grandparents
- Locating any traditional clothing, music or artifacts
- Inviting grandparents or other family to attend the Cultural Exhibition
- Attending the Exhibition themselves

