

"Reading Takes You Places"

Multicultural Literature, Lessons & Activities

Additional links and documents available at:

[http://ethiopialessons.wikispaces.com/
Multicultural+Lessons](http://ethiopialessons.wikispaces.com/Multicultural+Lessons)



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Multicultural studies meet Common Core Standards by:

- Incorporating literature from other cultures
- Including text from a variety of genres: fiction, nonfiction, fairy and folk tales, poetry, etc.
- Incorporating mini-research projects

Multicultural studies can easily be integrated with **21st century skills** in researching and creating an information product.

NOTE: *These activities were not done all in one year, and they were not something I did alone. Lots of people shared ideas and expertise and helped make it all happen. Hopefully you will find some ideas you can use or adapt for your students.*

Teaching Diversity through a Cross-Curricular approach

Each time we read a good piece of literature, we are changed by the experience: we see the world in a new way. For these reasons, literature can be a powerful vehicle for understanding cultures and experiences different from our own." (E.M. Bieger)

- **Children's literature** – Year-long library theme “Reading Takes You Places”
 - Storytime read-alouds
 - Guest speakers who have traveled or lived internationally
 - Using maps and globes to plot our location and the location of people in literature and guest speakers
- **Culture stations**
 - Games, clothing, music/dance, book browsing under mosquito net
- **Interactive displays**
 - Items to look at or touch
 - Example: use chopsticks to pick up a fortune cookie
 - Jigsaw puzzles
- **Bookmaking project**
 - Collaborative project between library classes and art
 - All students K-6 contributed a page to a class book (6th graders partnered with kindergarteners)
 - Students as authors and illustrators – writing process (brainstorming, first draft, editing, proofreading, etc.)
 - Book topics: Celebrations & Special Days, Things I Do for Fun, Things That Go, Around My School, Around My Community, Animal Poems
 - Books were donated to a school library in Ethiopia – Fregenet
- **Entry points lesson**
 - Multisensory, kinesthetic exploration of artifacts. Items can be scientific, historical, cultural, etc.
 - Questions for students
- **Service learning & empathy**
 - Collecting books for Ethiopia Reads
 - Raising money for Ethiopia Reads, a school, or a water project
- **“Reading Safari” reading celebration week activities**
 - Included author visit, guest speakers, African art, food, music, and service learning
- **Tying in architecture, fine art, music, dance – collaborate with other teachers**
- **Google Lit Trip – Google Earth**
 - 6th-grade reading class read multicultural books and created annotated Google Lit Trips over their books
- **Diversity lessons**
- **21st Century Skills** Research project: travel postcards
- **Geography**
 - Mapping activity – color code states on a U.S. map and/or countries in a world map
 - Where have you visited?
 - Where has a family member or close friend visited?
 - Where do you want to visit?