

A World of Differences & Similarities

Suggested Grade Level: 4-6

Character: Respect

Relative Subject(s): Social Studies/History, Reading and Writing

OBJECTIVE:

To learn about how different countries treat various animals and to compare these views.

MATERIALS:

A variety of books about four different countries

ACTIVITY:

Preliminary Discussion

- How do people in the United States treat animals? How are companion animals (pets) treated differently than wild animals?
- Are there certain animals in the U.S. that are considered important and others that are not? What are they and why?
- What do you know about how animals are treated in other countries? Share some examples.

Procedure

Divide the class into four groups. Assign a country to each group. Give them a variety of books to use for their research. If you have computer access, students may want to look at related websites also. Have them focus on how the people in that country view and treat various animals, whether there are certain animals that are revered or defiled and what kinds of pets are common in that country and report what they learned to the rest of the class.

Post-Discussion

- What was the most interesting thing you learned about each country?
- Compare the different customs, regarding animals, of each country. How are they different? How are they similar? How do they compare with the United States?
- Why is it important to understand and respect other cultures and customs? How can this help us to be more tolerant of others?
- What is diversity and why is it important? Discuss the diversity in the United States and emphasize that even though we all live in the same country we have many different customs and traditions.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Invite someone from a different country to speak to the class about their customs and traditions. Ask the students to bring (or make together in class) food that is representative of that country.

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