

Now that you have introduced the children to Canada we want to introduce the children to other cultures around the world. To support these activities have map of the world as well as pictures of children (people) from many different cultures displayed throughout your play area. Make sure you have books that also include pictures of the different cultures you chose to introduce to the children.

None of these activities can stand alone without a discussion of the history or background of the activity. Be sure to explain the significance of each activity to the children, so they understand the culture behind it. You can keep the information quite basic and simple. Add dress up materials to your play area that support this topic.

For each country/culture you want to introduce I would have a discussion involving the name of the country, how big it is compared to Canada, where it is from Canada (can you walk there from Canada? Do you need to fly?, the language spoken, food eaten, general weather etc. A picture book about each country would be beneficial to the children.

I chose activities for Japan, Africa and Mexico. You can do any countries you want. You don't have to follow the activity plan.

I have listed some activities to introduce the children to different cultures before you target specific countries. Make sure you familiarize yourself with the countries that you choose to explore.

Introduction Activities

Homes around the World

Here is a short video on the homes of different children around the world

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wi-li6hprCs>

Target: peer discussion

We Are All The Same

Explain to your children that even though people appear to be different on the outside they are all the same on the inside. Discuss some differences that the children may notice about each other. To illustrate this bring several different varieties of apples, and then cut them open. **Target: comparing**

Say "Hello"

Say "Hello" in many different languages. First ask the children if they know how to say "Hello" in any other language. Ask them to say the word and have the children repeat it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bswEIC4QrsY> (**Hello song**) **Target: vocabulary**

Hello around the world

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpTR1wF4M6k>

Target: vocabulary

Children from around the world match

Print out the attachments with the pictures of children from around the world. Make 2 copies so that you can create a matching game. **Target: matching**

Skin color

Put out different paints representing different skin tones. Have the children rub the paint on their hands and arms to see the difference between their skin colors. Discuss differences and similarities between their skin tones. Have them compare the colors with their peers. This would be a good activity to do outside on a hot day so the children can use the hose to wash the paint off.

Target: comparison

Flag Match

Printable Flags

<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/flag-printables>

You can use these for a matching game **Target: matching**

Pot Luck

Ask parents to bring in a heritage dish, something that represents family tradition or heritage. Ask them to write why the dish is significant, and where its origins are if known. Also, have the parents give you a list of ingredients so you can avoid any known food allergies. I recommend asking parents to not include mushrooms, peanuts or shell fish in any dish. Present each dish and read the information. Each child should be given a sample to try. Move onto the next food. **Target: sharing**

JAPAN

Chop Stix Pick-up

During this multicultural activity preschool children will use eye-hand coordination and fine motor skills.

You will need:

Enough pairs of chop sticks for everyone in the small group, lots of large cotton balls, paper plates. **Description:** Explain to the children that not everyone eats with forks and spoons. Introduce the chop sticks and tell children they are used for eating. Let the children help put the cotton balls (pretend food) on their paper plates and ask them how

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they could use the chop sticks to pick up the pretend food. Permit the children to experiment with ways to pick up the cotton balls. Then demonstrate how they might pick up the pretend food. **Target: grasping**

You can buy chopsticks at Dollar Tree that have a spring attached to make them easier for the children to use.

Japanese number song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqNotzty3kE>

Target: vocabulary

Japanese Letters

Have the children write or paint the first letter of their name in Japanese. You can find the Japanese alphabet on several websites. **Target: grasping**

Blossom Tree Painting

Blossom trees are symbolic of Chinese New Year, celebrated in Japan, and welcomed in Spring in much of the world.

You will need:

Pink paint

Black pen

Instructions:

Mix the paint with an equal part of water. Paint your paper all over with water. Dot on the paint and watch the dots spread. When you are happy you have enough blossoms leave the picture to dry.

When the paint is dry use the black pen to draw on the branches of the tree. **Target: self-expression**



Japanese Fan

1st option Make this pretty fan with your children.



You will need:

A4 (or letter) paper
Popsicle sticks
Pens/paint
Glue

Draw a rainbow shape on your paper, using our photo as a guide. Cut out. Decorate your paper however you choose. We painted ours with watered-down poster paint and then tapped over the top with kitchen roll to get a soft effect, similar to Japanese handmade paper. When it was dry we drew over the top in Japanese script, which we found by doing a Google search. You could try stamping or drawing flower shapes instead.

Glue 4 Popsicle sticks together in a fan shape about 1cm from the end.

Now stick the decorated paper to the other ends of the sticks, and you have a pretty Japanese fan. **Target: decision making**

2nd option

Paper Plate Fan

https://www.pinterest.com/pin/AXC6tTgkx1yt8iRzvQLncY7Wg6HPYrG_Dy00-fQm9DwSUnRsw1KRhMw/ **Target: decision making**

Miniature Zen Garden



A Japanese Zen garden is traditionally a rock garden made up of just rocks and sand, although plants may be used. Patterns are made in the sand to represent rippling water. Zen gardens are supposed to be peaceful, serene places.

To make your own miniature garden you will need:

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A small box (we used a chocolate box)
Sand or fine gravel
Pebbles
A fork

Fill your box halfway to the rim with sand. Use your fork to draw a pattern in the sand. Arrange your pebbles. Fine gravel can be used instead of sand. This activity can also be done in a sand box or and table. **Target: sensory**

Koi Fish art

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/370350769333269673/> **Target: creativity**

Zen Garden Sensory Bin

<http://www.cbc.ca/parents/play/view/sensory-play-mini-zen-garden-for-kids> **Target: sensory**

Rice Rainbows

Have the children create a rainbow by gluing the colored rice onto paper in arc shapes. You can use a picture of rainbow as a guide. Instructions on how to color the rice.

<http://happyhooligans.ca/rainbow-rice/> **Target: color recognition**

Kite Art - Cut out a kite shape and have your child decorate it with paint, glitter, fabric, crayons, or whatever you can come up with. **Target: self-expression**

Sushi exploration

Buy a package of sushi as an addition to one of your meals. Explain to the children what sushi is and if you want show a video of how sushi is made. Encourage the children to try the sushi but don't force them. Below is an activity that simulates sushi that the children can make.

<https://www.pinterest.com/source/designerbagsanddirtydiapers.blogspot.com/> banana sushi **Target: decision making**

MEXICO

There are 3 different options for maracas

Plastic Egg Maracas

<http://www.madeeveryday.com/2012/04/tutorial-easter-egg-maracas-for-cinco-de-mayo.html/> **Target: creativity**

Maracas

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<http://www.redroko.com/2009/04/15-minutes-make-it-cinco-de-mayo.html> **Target: creativity**

Paper Plate Maracas

<http://www.scatteredthoughtsofacraftymom.com/2011/06/monday-craft-paper-plate-maracas.html> **Target: creativity**

Sombrero

<http://www.redroko.com/2009/04/15-minutes-make-it-cinco-de-mayo.html> **Target: decision making**

Mexican Pot with Cactus

<http://dolvinartknight.blogspot.ca/2012/05/succulent-plants-in-mexican-pots.html> **Target: grasping**

A Sombrero Hat Game (Mexico)

Place as many objects (balls, blocks, small toys) as there are players around a Mexican hat. The sombrero with its wide brim works well. Have the children sitting in a circle around the hat. Name an object or color (or even both, for example, green block) and ask a child to run to the hat, pick up the named object, and run back to his space. Continue this game until all children have had a turn. For older children, vary this game by using clues like shapes, numbers, and letters. **Target: decision making**

Mexican Hat Dance

Another fun game is the *Mexican Hat Dance*. Children join hands in a large circle. Everyone dances to the right, until the music changes, and then everyone turns and dances to the left. Dance to the center of the circle, with hands held up high; dance back, bending low. Use any Mexican music, but the "Hat Dance" song is best.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TN9pi-FX8uI> *Mexican Hat dance song*

Target: balance

Mexican Snack

Tortillas chips with salsa and guacamole

Target: sensory

AFRICA

Pet the Elephant

Choose one child to be the elephant and crouch down on all fours or the Provider can be the elephant. The “elephant” begins to swing its trunk (one arm back and forth). The other children go up to the elephant and try petting the animal without getting touched by its swinging trunk. Whenever the elephant's trunk touches a child, the child is out of the game. The child who remains untouched will be the new elephant. **Target: coordination**

African Sensory Bin

https://www.google.ca/search?q=african+sensory+bin&rlz=1C1NHXL_enCA700CA700&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiUI6n_5o7VAhWnllQKHRPIBg0QsAQIJw&biw=1366&bih=662 **Target: sensory**



Rain Rhythm Sticks

Materials:

Paper towel tubing, plastic lids from milk jug, tape, beans or rice or cereal, felt tip markers, crayons, stickers etc.

Description:

Teachers give the children a paper towel tube and let them decorate it with markers and sticker. Close one end off with a milk cap (we taped ours with masking tape just to make sure the filling wouldn't come out). Let the children partially fill the tube with beans or even dried cereal. Close the other end with a cap. Then let them shake, shake shake. It sounds just like raindrops! **Target: creativity**

Five Sticks- Each child should have five sticks (Popsicle sticks work well). The sticks from each player are tossed into a pile. One child starts first and tries to remove a stick from the pile without moving any of the other sticks. If they are successful, they keep the stick, if not they have to leave it in the location where it was as soon as it disturbed another stick. Play moves to the next player and continues until all the sticks are gone. Modification: use sticks of different colors. Have the child roll a die or draw a card to determine what color stick they must pull out of the pile. With young children I would have the child keep the stick if they picked the right color. **Target: taking turns**

Thula Baba

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CxzSfaigpU> **Target: repetition**

African Drum

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veOdr1ASEPw> **Target: creativity**

African paper plate necklace

<http://www.ouceuponanartroom.com/2012/11/african-necklaces-paper-plates.html>

Target: self-expression



Simple Desserts

African desserts often feature sweet soups or baked goods that require a lot of preparation work, so they may not be ideal for children to make. However, fruit Popsicle-type frozen treats are popular throughout Africa. Make them using a plastic mold kit and reusable wooden sticks. Use juices from fruits popular in Africa to make the frozen treats. While orange is common, consider using blood oranges instead, which are found in many countries in Africa. Mango, apricot, pineapple, watermelon and coconut are also common fruits in Africa, and they also make good frozen treats.

Target: sequencing

Read a book about the different countries you choose.

Some suggestions:

The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush

Dumplings are Delicious

Mommy, Why?

Get Dressed

Peace In Our Land: Children Celebrating Diversity (Kids Creative Classics)

Difference

Throw Your Tooth on the Roof: Tooth Traditions from Around the World

Eating (Small World (Lerner Publishing))

Celebrating (English-Punjabi) (Small World series)

Smiling (Small World)

Wash Up (Small World) **Target: vocabulary**

FYI- now that you've read through the activity plan replay the email sending you the activity plan for a chance to win a 25\$ gift card at our next meeting. Thanks Shannon