

## **Tolerance**

### **Teach Me Your Ways**

#### **Objectives:**

Students will be able to

- Discuss various family traditions and cultural customs
- Recognize the ways that culture is transmitted from person to person
- Demonstrate an understanding of and tolerance for diverse traditions and customs
- Compose a journal entry detailing information they learned about their own and others' cultures

#### **Materials:**

- Pens, pencils
- Paper
- Journals or learning logs

#### **Procedure:**

1. Begin this activity by demonstrating one of your family's traditions or cultural customs for your students. Share with students the meaning behind the tradition or custom and who taught it to you.
2. Lead a discussion about the ways that culture is transmitted from one person to another in families and other social groups. If time permits, allow students to give examples of traditions or customs they've learned from members of their families.
3. Separate students into pairs, and ask each student to think about a family tradition or cultural custom that is unique to his or her family. Explain to students that they will share their tradition or custom with their partners.

**Note:** You may want to consider assigning this activity near the end of the day so that students can spend time at home preparing any materials they might need for their demonstrations the following day.

4. Within each pair, instruct students to take turns demonstrating and explaining their tradition or custom to their partners. Then have each student share and explain his or her partner's tradition or custom with the rest of the class.

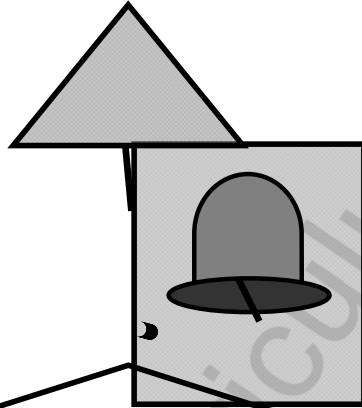
**Note:** To save time, you may choose to place pairs in small groups in order for pairs to demonstrate each other's traditions or customs instead of having each pair demonstrate for the entire class.

5. End the activity by assigning students to write a journal entry that addresses one or more of the following questions:
  - What new information did you learn from your classmates' presentations?
  - Which of your classmates are you interested in getting to know better now that you know more about their cultures? Why?
  - Did this activity cause you to develop more tolerance for a group of people or a group's traditions or customs? Explain.
  - What did you learn about your own culture or your own family by participating in this activity?

**Related Vocabulary Words**

culture    custom    tolerance    tradition

Sample Curriculum



## School-wide Connections

Research shows that the most successful character education programs are those that integrate character education throughout the school. Consider the following suggestions for bringing a school-wide emphasis to character education:

- **Student Newsletter:** Encourage your students to create a monthly or biweekly character education newsletter. Students could profile classmates who exhibit the qualities embodied in various character education words. They could also feature teachers and others in their school and community who demonstrate good character and who are committed to developing character in others.
- **Buddy Bands:** Identify students within your school who could serve as “buddies” for younger students who are having difficulty coping in specific areas. These school-wide buddies should wear colored bracelets or bands so that they can be easily identified. Provide the older buddies with guidance and information from the school counselor or a teacher liaison before allowing them to attempt peer counseling or peer mediation. Target areas for the buddy program include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Academic tutoring
  - Anger management
  - Bullying and harassment
  - Conflict resolution
  - Coping with grief
  - Divorce

