

**Da Vinci Innovation Academy**  
**End of Year Social – Cultural Fair on June 1, 2017, 5 – 7 pm**  
**Home School Project Ideas related to Cultural Heritage**

Hi! I'm Flora White and for a long time, I had the idea to create a cultural potluck with people from all different cultures. I got the chance when I came to Da Vinci. It has been a big hit and this year, people wanted to do it again. Here is an optional homeschool project that ties in with the event on June 1<sup>st</sup> and will inspire you to explore your heritage.

Have you ever wanted to learn about your family's background? Well, here's your chance! Families will learn about their heritage's creativity, unique traditions and the founding of its country, and more. So let's get started and share a fun learning adventure!

What are your family's heritages? (pick one or decide if you have time to do more than one)  
What do they wear traditionally?

What does their flag look like?

What foods do they eat?

What is the traditional music, dance and other performing arts?

What kinds of visual arts do they do?

What are the holidays?

What kind of stories do they like to tell?

Ask a relative or family member about why your family came to America, What is their story?

What constellations do they see?

What is the story of the country's founding?

When was the country founded?

Who founded it?

Step 1 – Look at the questions above and see what are the most important ones to you

-If you want, you can look at the activities on page 2 first, and base the questions you choose on the activity you want to do.

-if you have time, you can research the other questions.

Step 2 – Research the questions you think are most important.

Step 3 – Write or type out the answers in your own words. If you want, you can type it after you write it.

On pages 2 and 3, there are some projects that you can do after finishing the steps above.

**Poster**

Create a poster (or two) to show what heritage you

are part of. This poster can:

- answer one or more of the questions
- tell your family's story
- create and overview of your heritage's culture
- include illustrations, photos, pictures of any kind...

If you like, you can have it on display at the Cultural Fair. It can be with your display, activity, or dish, or just on its own. Don't forget: it has to be legible, and remember, it can't be the size of an elephant! 🖨️🕒

Have fun!

### **Dance**

Prepare a dance to perform at the Cultural Fair. Here are some ideas:

- Make up your own dance based on the cultural dance of your heritage
- Ask someone you know who knows the dance of your family's culture to teach you something and, if you can, perform it with them!
- Make up a dance to go with an existing song from the country you chose
- Do some research into the dance of your heritage and find out about the different dances. Choose one and research further: What story does this dance tell? Why do they have this dance? Is it religious or just for fun? For this option, you can choose whether or not to perform your dance.

These are just ideas. Just make sure your dance has something to do with your heritage. Please bring your own music, if needed. If you use a CD or instrument, please be sure to put your full name on it, and take it with you after the event.

Have fun!

### **Song**

Write or prepare a song to perform at the Cultural Fair. It can be:

- a story that you wrote that is based on the stories of your heritages (like the story activity next to this one)
- about something that is meaningful to your heritage
- based on the songs of your heritage
- a song in their language that you wrote
- Do some research into the songs of your heritage and find out about the different traditional songs. Choose one and research further: What story does this song tell? When is it sung (e.g, at festivals, before bed, in church, etc)? Who wrote it?

-Ask someone you know who knows songs of your heritage to teach you one, or learn one on your own.

Please bring your own music if needed. If you use a CD or instrument, please be sure to put your full name on it, and take it with you after the event. Have fun!

### **Costume**

You may also choose to dress up as someone who tells a story of your heritage during the Cultural Fair. Here are some ideas:

- Dress up as the founder of the country of your heritage
- Dress up in a costume that is reminiscent of the traditional costume of your heritage
- Dress up as a character from a story of your heritage

You can dress up as anyone you want. If you come up with another way you can represent your heritage with a costume, please share it with us by wearing it to the cultural fair! It doesn't matter how you get the costume, but one option would be to make it in the traditional way of your heritage. You can do some research on that person, clothing or character.

If you don't feel like dressing up, for the second option, you could put the costume on display with a description of who wore it, what it was made of, when it was worn, etc. If you do decide on this option, though, please keep track of your costume by putting your full name on it. Have fun!

### **Flag**

You can make a flag out of ANYTHING (e.g.: clay, fabric, paper, legos, etc.) to display at the Cultural Fair. Here are some options:

- You can make a flag that shows what YOU think represents that country

\* Show as much originality as possible for this

-With a choice, you can find the specific state or colony of your heritage and make a flag for that place OR use the existing flag of that place.

We will label them and use them to organize the food (see food activity a bit below).

Have fun!

### **Story**

Below are some ideas you can use to write your story:

-Write a story about some of the constellations of your heritage (it doesn't matter if it has to do with the original stories of the constellations or not, but it does have to use the traditional characters of the constellations.)

-Write a story about some characters of the folktales, myths and fables of your heritage

-Feel free to mix the topics up in any way!

If you like, you can tell your story at the Cultural Fair, or just keep it to yourself.

Have fun!

### **Performing Arts that Make your Heritage Unique –**

Present a performing art that makes your heritage unique or that was started by your heritage at the Cultural Fair.

Examples: bagpipes, ballet, karate, shadow puppet shows, etc. You can do it with one of your/some friend(s) and/or have people sign up to be in your performance. If it involves writing a story, you can use some of the other activities for ideas. Please keep track of any items you choose to bring with you for your performance.

Have fun!

### **Visual Arts-**

Make something that is in the unique visual arts of your heritage. For example: a painting, a sculpture made out of materials from your heritage, etc. It can be about anything about your heritage that you like or inspires you. If you want, you can look at the fine artists from the country you chose for ideas.

Have fun!

### **Food-**

Make a dish that is traditional for your heritage or/and that tells a story of your heritage e.g.: scones, sushi, empanadas, etc. to bring to the Cultural Fair. If you'd like, you can do some research on that particular food: When is it usually eaten? What is it made out of? Why is it made out of those ingredients? Present your research on a card by your dish.

Have fun!

amorequipo@gmail.com. If you would like to share your heritage at the Cultural Fair, please use the signugnugenius link below:

If you have any questions, problems or concerns, please send an email to me at