

Social Studies Showcase Project 2024 : Identity Box

Part A

For this project, we will be exploring personal and cultural identity, starting with yourself and family, and then exploring other cultures in various times and places.

PARENTS: Please use discussion. As with all our projects, it is important to have some discussion with your child – this helps to get thoughts and ideas flowing. You can talk together to identify things that are important to your family, community, peer group and culture. This way your child will be able to choose items to represent these things.

Create an Identity Box

1. Find or make a box for this activity
2. Choose items that you feel express who you are, and that represent your family, your peer group/ community and your cultural identity and put them inside your Identity Box
 - 1 item representing self;
 - 1 item representing family
 - 1 item representing community
 - 1 item representing culture
3. Now, choose words that represent yourself, your family and your culture, and add them to your Identity Box.
4. Add colours, textures and images to add detail to your unique identity box.

Culture and Identity in different times and places: Research and writing

Part B

Now that you have represented yourself, family and culture, it is time to learn about other groups in the world. You will be exploring the groups and times associated with your grade's social studies topics. This research will focus on cultural traditions, celebrations, games, food and the arts. When researching, you can use first-hand information in some situations. Eg. Use family pictures or interview a family member or friend; or secondary sources such as the internet, library books, your textbooks or our district website student resources.

<https://newwestschools.ca/resources/district-library-resources/student-resources/>

Questions to guide your research

1. What were the culture's traditions and how did they celebrate?
2. Were there particular games and/ or foods that were important to them?

For grades (6-8) only:

3. Did geography and place play a role in the location and culture of your group?

K-1: Research your **family culture** by interviewing an older family member such as a grandparent, great grandparent, aunt, uncle etc..

- Draw a picture and use swirly writing, copied words or sentences, or parent-scribed text

Gr. 2 and 3: Research a **global Indigenous group**.

- Write 2-4 sentences (parents can scribe as needed; pictures and images can be included and can be labeled)

Gr. 4: Research a **Canadian Indigenous group**

- Use images and write 5 to 7 sentences
- **Be sure to cite your sources and include them as part of your project.**

Gr. 5: Research a **group or culture that immigrated to Canada**. Eg. Groups from South or East Asia; Sikh Loggers; Eastern European Farmers; British Investors; Chinese railway workers. You may have a personal relationship with Immigration to Canada and can share your own family's story and culture.

- Write a paragraph or two (5-7 sentences each) Images are optional
- **Be sure to cite your sources and include them as part of your project.**

Gr. 6: Choose a **current day Global Culture**.

- Write two or three paragraphs. Images are optional
- **Be sure to cite your sources and include them as part of your project.**

Gr. 7: Research the culture of an **Ancient Civilization** up to 500 CE.

- Write three or more paragraphs. Images are optional
- **Be sure to cite your sources and include them as part of your project.**

Gr. 8: Research a **Middle Ages culture** between 500 CE -1750 CE

- Write three or more paragraphs. Images are optional.
- **Be sure to cite your sources and include them as part of your project.**

PART C

Now, it's time to get creative again. Create an object or artistic representation that you feel represents the culture you researched.

Part D

Presentation Week: December 17th-20th

You will have about 2 minutes to share your project. This means you will need to identify the most important aspects and practice your presentation. You will not have time to read your whole research project. You may want to use cue cards to summarize and organize your speaking points.

Be prepared to:

- 1: Share your identity box and why you chose the items you did to represent yourself, family, community and culture
- 2: Share key elements of the culture you researched
- 3: Share your cultural object or artistic representation and explain its significance to the culture you researched
- 4: Complete and bring your **social studies rubric** page and your research- give this to your classroom teacher before you present.