

6 How do you have fun?

This section focuses on the universality of games and festivals. Art prints, photographs, activities and discussion help students to find similarities in games children play around the world, and to appreciate festivals as expressions of culture.

Objectives

Students will:

- Identify common elements in games and holidays enjoyed by children in developing countries
- Show connections between festivals and events in nature
- Recognize how festivals combine secular and religious traditions
- Appreciate the diversity of customs and traditions in the United States and in developing countries

Materials	
Arts Prints:	<i>Bo Train</i> by Kambia Conteh, Sierra Leone <i>Songkran Festival</i> by Jittar Lekklar, Thailand
Photographs:	<i>Drumming in Sierra Leone</i> <i>A Family in Rural Thailand</i>
Activity Sheets:	How do you have fun? Activities #1 - #5
Maps, Globes:	

Getting started

Introduce this section by having students share through writing, drawing or discussion ways that they have fun. Students can compare their activities to those of Third World peers.

Use the art prints and photographs to elicit spontaneous reactions and feelings about the visual images.

What do you see?

How are children having fun?

Do you see activities that are familiar to you?

How does the picture make you feel?

Teacher background information

CHILDREN EVERYWHERE FIND TIME TO PLAY. Without toys from the store, many children in developing countries must create their own toys and design their own games. Keeping an old tire rim rolling is common throughout the world (including old New England). Many of the games are organized and others are more spontaneous. Games like "Bo Train" from Sierra Leone have their parallels in games that children play in the United States.

FESTIVALS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF EVERY CULTURE. They teach children the traditions, values and beliefs of a community. Although particular practices change from generation to generation, festivals and celebrations are what holds a people and a community together.

Festivals may be held to celebrate religious or national holidays. Many times the religious and secular are combined. There are many similarities. For example, celebrations of National or Independence Days generally include parades and fireworks.

On religious festivals people may pray or go to the temple, church or mosque. Celebrations often include the preparation and sharing of special foods and provide a chance for families and communities to come together.

ALL CULTURES OBSERVE AND CELEBRATE SPECIAL DAYS. A day might be special because it marks a patriotic event such as gaining a country's independence. In the United States, we celebrate July 4th. Thai people honor October 25th as a national holiday in memory of the King of Thailand (1868-1910) who abolished slavery and brought about other needed reforms in Thai laws and customs. In Sierra Leone, April 27th is a national holiday commemorating the country's independence in 1961.

NATURAL AND SEASONAL EVENTS offer occasions for celebration and fellowship. Many festivals are linked to the cycle of farming. In Thailand, the beginning and the end of the rainy season are times of festival, prayer and thanksgiving. Loy Krathong occurs in mid-November at the height of the monsoon rains when people give thanks for the precious resource of water which has helped crops grow.

Songkran is celebrated in mid-April at the end of the dry weather. In anticipation of the rains, young people have fun throwing water at each other. At one time it was believed that throwing water would bring abundant rainfall and assure a good growing season.

In Thailand and India, the new year is celebrated both in mid-April, based upon the system of counting lunar months, and on January 1st, according to the western calendar. The date of the new year may vary from culture to culture and even within a culture. However, the feelings of hope and joy associated with new beginnings remain constant.

"Even though kids are poor, they know how to have fun" -4th grader. Providence, RI

Activity Sheets: What keeps you healthy?

#1. **Songkran Festival:** Students look for details in the drawing to appreciate religious and secular aspects of this Thai celebration.

#2. **Bo Train:** Students express reactions to art print and discuss similarities with games they know.

#3. **Games Around the World:** Students draw and write down the directions to a favorite game. They also compare toys from different countries and how they are made.

#4. **Music Around the World:** Students brainstorm various kinds of instruments that they could create out of common household materials.

#5. **You're Finished!:** Students review what they have learned from See Me, Share My World.

Developing critical thinking: questions for further exploration

- Children in developing countries make their own toys from whatever they can find. Do you think that you would have fun playing with their toys? Why or why not?
- In what ways are holidays around the world similar?
- How have your ideas about the Third World changed?

Multidisciplinary approaches

Art. Make and play board games from developing countries such as Snakes and Ladders from India and Parcheesi from India. Compare to our western versions of the same games.

Art. Make a toy out of scrap materials. Discuss factors that influence children's choice of toys in developing countries, such as the natural materials available to them. Do all children need and have playthings? Set up a class toy museum, including store-bought and homemade toys,

Art. Play games with action and movement, like freeze tag. Watch others jumping and running. Try to capture the movement in a drawing. Analyze how the artwork from Sierra Leone expresses action and movement.

Art/Language Arts. Compare children's artwork from Sierra Leone, Thailand and Colombia. Describe in sentences how the styles are different or similar.

Art/Language Arts. Draw and write down the instructions of favorite games to compile a class game book.

Language Arts/History. Interview parents and grandparents on festivals that they celebrated or games that they played as children. Make a Festival or Games Book, describing how times have changed (or stayed the same).

Music/Art. Listen to festival music from different developing countries. Draw feelings that the music evokes. Make musical instruments.

Physical Education. Learn children's games from Sierra Leone, Thailand and Colombia. How are they similar? How are they different? What do you learn from playing games? Why do people play sports?

Social Studies. New Year's Day is celebrated around the world, but on different days and in diverse ways. Research new-year's traditions of developing and developed countries. What do New Year's celebrations have in common? How do they differ?

Social Studies. National holidays usually commemorate past patriotic events or honor a country's heroes. Find out the national holidays for different developing countries and what they stand for. Design and illustrate a calendar of national holidays. Who are the national heroes of Thailand, Sierra Leone, India or Colombia? Who are our popular heroes?