

Using the Arts in the Classroom to Enhance Cultural Awareness

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Connections!

- To really dig into a culture, one must look at everything. Language, Geography, Traditions and it's ARTS!





When working with children we know.....

- Hands on projects are the way to go! We retain by doing!
- Children who have the opportunity to create cultural pieces of work then make connections to areas of the world and even to peers in the class.
- Art, dance, music and the performing arts is usually the best way to get an idea, vision or a basic understanding of anyone's culture.

Take a look! Most of us can recognize where these pieces of work came from. They are all specific to a cultural group.



A traditional Aboriginal dot painting is shown. It features a central figure, possibly a kangaroo or wallaby, rendered in white and brown. The background is a dense, intricate pattern of small dots in various colors, including brown, black, and white, arranged in a grid-like fashion. The painting is set within a white border.







Much of the time
cultural art is derived
from surroundings.

What is going on
around you? What
materials are
accessible?



A region's art work can say so much about the history!

For an easy example take a totem pole. It is SO much more than a carving of the cedar trees that grow! It gives us a glimpse into the lives of the Pacific Northwest Tribes.

- The animals used are the animals of the areas.
- Each animals has very specific meanings.
- The poles have many different meanings - Clan lineage, ancient tribal tales, notable events.....
- Tribal regions also have styles that differentiate their works.



When we give children the chance to be exposed to things they have never seen and make connections it opens up a whole new world of learning!



Ancient Greece

Real Greek Pottery



Looking & creating designs from Greek pottery



Medusa Theater Mask



Dramatic Play Space



Campus Column Search



Our names in Greek



Russia





Iran

Persian Designs

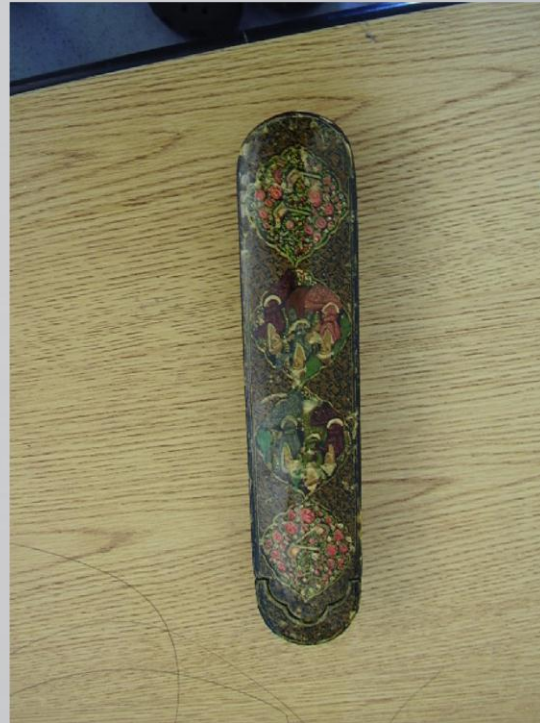
Flags wit our names in Farsi



Persian Art of Calligraphy



Family Calligraphy Set



China

Our Terracotta Soldiers



Great Wall Of China



Dramatic Play



**Using real materials
when able.**



Our Chinese Chops



Fans



Ink & Bamboo Brushes



Language Arts



Characters



Food



Tangrams



Paper Cuts



In studying other cultures, we
learn more about ourselves
and our relationship to all
things in this world.

~ Eustace Conway

