

CULTURAL EXPLORATION THROUGH SOCIAL SCIENCE

Using Travel, Culture, Research & Canva to Create Meaningful Student Projects

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Workshop goal & objectives..... pg. 3

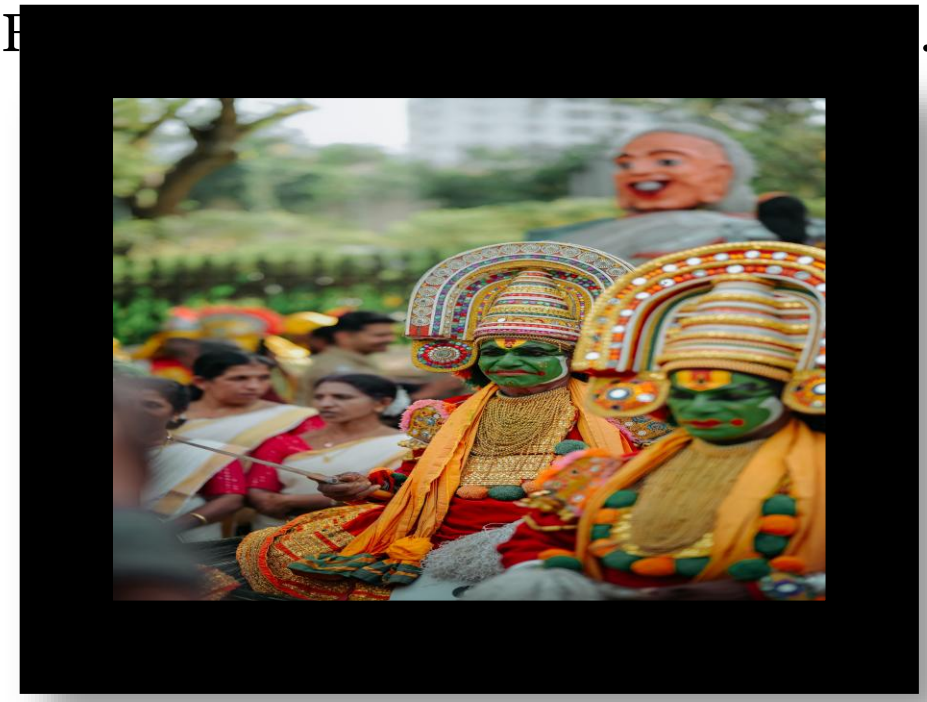
Project description-The big idea.....pg. 3

Course outline/workshop overview.....pg. 4

Resources/ Printables.....Pg. 5

Workshop visuals.....pg. 5

H.....pg. 5



1. Workshop Goal & Objectives

- Introduce teachers to a social-science approach to teaching about countries and cultures.
- Demonstrate two classroom projects that combine research, anthropology, psychology, cultural awareness, technology, and visual communication.
- Show teachers how to move beyond traditional country reports and encourage students to investigate the *why* behind cultural practices.
- Demonstrate how student work can become professional products such as magazines, books, posters, bookmarks, shirts, and other printed displays.
- Provide teachers with practical materials they can adapt for their own classrooms.

2. Project Description — The Big Idea

Students explore countries through cultural practices rather than simply collecting basic facts such as population, capital, flag, or political leader.

The projects ask students to investigate:

- Rituals and traditions
- Festivals and ceremonies
- Indigenous and ancient practices
- Spiritual beliefs
- Traditional clothing and food
- Unusual or specialized ways of life
- Historical and mythological stories
- Women's roles and contributions
- Cultural symbols and their meanings

The goal is to help students see a country through **people, behavior, beliefs, traditions, and everyday life.**

3. Course Outline / Workshop Overview

Part I — Why Teach Culture Differently?

- Moving beyond the traditional country report
- Connecting travel and tourism with social science
- Using curiosity to motivate research



Part II — Project #1: Cultural Exploration

- Country selection
- Research categories
- Cultural investigation
- Canva advertisement-style presentation
- Student presentation
- Display/publication opportunities

Part III — Project #2: Identifying Your Doll

- Cultural investigation
- Connecting visual objects to culture
- Women's roles and contributions
- One-page Canva product

Part IV — Bringing Student Work to Life

- Selecting outstanding work
- Professional printing
- Magazines
- Books
- Posters

- Bookmarks
- Shirts
- School displays and exhibitions
- Using grant funding to showcase student work



4. Resources/ Printables

Workshop participants will receive:

- Project #1 assignment sheet
- Project #2 assignment sheet
- Country list
- Doll research guide
- Research prompts
- Canva design/ examples
- Project requirements

5. Workshop Visuals

The workshop room will include:

- Student-created magazine/ shirts/ posters/ bookmarks
- Cultural dolls
- Sample assignment sheets
- 65 international doll display
- Teacher's V.O.C.E.S. certificate as part of the presenter's professional journey

6. Florida CTE Standards

The projects support Florida's Hospitality & Tourism CTE standards through:

- Researching the hospitality and tourism industry

- Promoting social and cultural awareness
- Recognizing cultural customs and taboos
- Using technology and artistic skills
- Creating visual and oral presentations
- Communicating clearly
- Working with diverse cultural perspectives

SAMPLE OF COUNTRY LIST

1. Papua New Guinea
2. Vanuatu
3. Mongolia
4. Bhutan
5. Madagascar
6. Tonga
7. Tuvalu
8. Comoros
9. Timor-Leste
10. Kyrgyzstan
11. Uzbekistan
12. Georgia
13. São Tomé and Príncipe
14. Suriname
15. Guyana
16. Laos
17. Myanmar
18. Nepal
19. Yemen — Socotra Island
20. Benin
21. Togo
22. Mauritania
23. Cabo Verde
24. Faroe Islands

Women History- Doll Project

Identifying your doll

What your one-page Canva project must include

1. **Doll overview**
    a. Where the doll is from
    b. Key features (clothing, materials, colors, symbols)
    c. What these features represent culturally
2. **Women of the culture/region**
    a. A brief explanation of women's roles or traditions in this culture
    b. Historical or modern contributions of women from this region
    c. Any unique customs, clothing, or achievements tied to women
3. **Cultural significance**
    a. How the doll connects to real cultural practices
4. **Visuals**
    a. Clear images of the doll
    b. Optional: photos, symbols, flags, or cultural patterns appropriate to the region

Requirements

- Your work **must be written in your own words** (no copying from AI or websites)
- You must be able to **explain your doll and culture to the teacher**.
- Information should be **short, accurate, and easy for you to talk about**.
- Design must be **neat, organized, and visually appealing** on Canva.

Grading

- **Content Accuracy** – 30%
- **Cultural Understanding** – 25%

- **Design & Presentation Quality** – 20%
- **Oral Explanation to Teacher** – 25%

Cultural Exploration Project

Instructions

PROJECT GOAL

You will research one of the countries with unusual cultural traditions, rituals, or festivities. Your task is to create an engaging advertisement-style report showcasing the country as if you are a cultural expert presenting it to tourists, travelers, or interested visitors. Your project should teach and persuade while demonstrating deep cultural understanding.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

1. Country Selection

Choose one country from the list provided.
Your report must include at least five in-depth topics about the country, focusing on unique or little known cultural practices. These can include:

- Rituals
- Festivities or holidays
- Spiritual beliefs
- Ancient or indigenous traditions
- Sacred practices
- Unusual lifestyles (nomadic, floating villages, etc.)
- Traditional attire, food, or ceremonies
- Historical or mythological stories that shaped the culture

Each fact must be fully explained as if you are an expert.

2. Your finished product must include:

A. Canvas Submission (Digital)

- A visually appealing **advertisement-style presentation**
  Examples:
    - Travel brochure
    - Infographic

    - Travel-agency style webpage
- Must include text + visuals
- Must be easy to read and attractive

B. Written Explanation (Within Canvas)

- 8 pages with written material MINIMUM
- Must explain the A MINIMUM of 5 cultural elements in full detail
- Tone: **enthusiastic, informative, expert-like**

3. Presentation

- You must be able to confidently explain your country and its culture.
- Notes are allowed, but reading word-for-word is not.
- Presentations will be short (3–5 minutes).

4. Evaluation

Projects will be graded on:

- Depth of research
- Accuracy and clarity
- Visual creativity
- Presentation quality
- Ability to explain topics confidently

5. Special Recognition

Top 15 projects will be printed in a professionally bound book and displayed at school events representing the Hospitality Department.

Suggestions to add:

- A recipe or traditional dish from the culture
- A custom map
- A comparison between traditional and modern life