

Following Cinderella Around the World

Using Folktales to Learn About Cultures

Children listen to and/or read a number of folk/fairytales from various countries and compare and contrast the tales, thereby learning about these cultures.

Student Outcomes:

- Children will read/listen to a variety of multicultural Cinderella tales and discuss the similarities/differences between them.
- Children will recognize cultural differences between two versions of Cinderella.
- Children will write a paragraph telling which Cinderella version they prefer and/or comparing/contrasting two versions of the story.

Standards:

3.0 Literary Response and Analysis

Students read and respond to a wide variety of significant works of children's literature.

They distinguish between the structural features of the text and literary terms or elements (e.g., theme, plot, setting, characters).

3.2 Comprehend basic plots of classic fairy tales, myths, folktales, legends, and fables from around the world.

3.3 Determine what characters are like by what they say or do and by how the author or illustrator portrays them.

3.4 Determine the underlying theme or author's message in fiction and nonfiction text.

1.0 Writing Strategies

Students write clear and coherent sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea. Their writing shows they consider the audience and purpose. Students progress through the stages of the writing process (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, editing successive versions).

2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students write compositions that describe and explain familiar objects, events, and experiences.

Student writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the drafting, research, and organizational strategies outlined in Writing Standard 1.0.

You may want to discuss oral tradition tales before beginning this unit or simply explore Cinderella as a story character. See Resources List for definitions of a variety of oral tradition stories. This website provides additional lessons in other genres of tales.

Lesson 1

Discuss Cinderella. Most children will believe that Walt Disney wrote it and they will be familiar with the movie version. Use the Story Structure Chart (see Resources section) to list the elements of this version. Explain that Disney took this old story and added his own ideas to the story. The basic Cinderella type of story is very old and there are said to be more than 1500 versions of this tale in many cultures around the world. There are many websites that feature Cinderella stories. Some are scholarly and some are classroom generated. See the Resources to link to some of these webpages.

The basis for our classic Cinderella in the United States, is Charles Perrault's version. Read this version to the children. Discuss the similarities and differences between Perrault's version and Disney's. Record the information from both versions on the Story Structure Chart. You may want to have a large classroom chart, or the children can record on their own copies of the chart. If you wish to have a geography tie-in, provide the children with a world map (or use a large class map) and color in the USA (or just CA (Hollywood version), if you plan to read other US versions) and France. It is important, if you color only part of the US that you discuss the difference between a country and a state or region. This is a very difficult concept and children need lots of practice to get the differences sorted out. Continue coloring countries on the map as a record of stories as you read them.

Lesson 2--and on

Read to, or have the children read other versions of this story (see Bibliography and Resource Links) and add to the Story Structure Chart as you read each version. Discuss cultural and historical period differences. You can expand or keep it simple, depending on the ages of the children.

Assessment/Culminating Activity

Have children choose their favorite version of Cinderella from the chart and write a paragraph (or more) about why they chose that particular version of the tale. Also, they can be asked to compare and contrast it to the French version (Perrault's) or one of the other versions that was read.

Extensions:

Read other tales that have multiple versions. See resources list.

Write your own versions of Cinderella. As a cultural tie-in, have students study a culture and write a version of Cinderella that reflects aspects of that culture.

Read some of the modern Cinderella tales. See Resources list.

See these for additional ideas in the [Resources Section](#)

Story Structure Chart

Bibliography

- Multicultural Cinderella Tales, a List
- Modern Cinderella Tales, a List

Links