

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

Multicultural Projects

MULTILINGUAL STORYTELLING



PROJECTS CREATED BASED ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR
HIGH QUALITY PROJECT BASED LEARNING



MULTILINGUAL STORYTELLING

Students work in teams to research and explore a variety of cultures, languages, and storytelling traditions. They then create a storytelling event, incorporating stories and legends from different cultures and languages, and presenting them in a multilingual format. This project incorporates the PBL framework's relevance, public product, and reflective elements.

The objective and goal:

1. **Promote multilingualism and cultural diversity:** Students will develop an appreciation for different languages and cultures, and learn to value the diversity of the community.
2. **Enhance language skills:** Students will improve their language skills in their native language, as well as in a second or third language, by practicing reading, writing, and storytelling in multiple languages.
3. **Foster creativity and imagination:** Students will use their imagination to create and share stories in a variety of formats and genres, including written stories, illustrations, audio recordings, and videos.
4. **Develop empathy and cross-cultural understanding:** Students will engage with stories from different cultures and perspectives, and learn to recognize the similarities and differences between them.
5. **Encourage collaboration and communication:** Students will work collaboratively in teams, sharing ideas, giving and receiving feedback, and practicing effective communication skills.
6. **Showcase learning through a public product:** Students will present their multilingual stories to the community, showcasing their language skills and cultural knowledge, and promoting a sense of pride in their language and cultural heritage.





HOW THE PROJECT WILL WORK:

- **Launch:**

Begin the project by introducing the essential question or driving question that will guide students' inquiry. For example:

"How can we use storytelling to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity in our community?"

- **Inquiry:**

Students will research different storytelling traditions from around the world, and explore the elements that make a compelling story. Examples of different traditional folklore stories from different countries are attached to this lesson.

Separating the students into groups, print the stories and share with them. Let the students exchange ideas and opinions about each story, and ask them to take notes about each one.

- **Student Voice and Choice:**

Students will have the opportunity to choose the languages and stories they wish to focus on, and how they will share their stories, whether through written stories, illustrations, audio recordings, or videos. Using any online translator, students can translate the story into the original language of the country, and compare the differences and similarities in writing and pronunciation.

- **Collaboration:**

Students will work in teams to create and share their stories, practicing effective communication skills and giving and receiving feedback from each other. At this time, students can create a vocabulary sheet to present the new words that they learned.





HOW THE PROJECT WILL WORK:

- **Critique and Revision:**

Students will present their stories to the class or a panel of experts, receiving feedback and making revisions based on this feedback.

- **Public Product:**

Students will showcase their final products to the broader community, whether through a multilingual storybook, a storytelling event, or an online platform.

- **Reflection:**

Students will reflect on their learning and the impact of their project, considering how they have developed their language skills, creativity, empathy, collaboration, and communication skills. Share with the students the self-reflection sheet to be filled out.





TRADITIONAL STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD:



Mexico – Alebrijes

The story of Alebrijes is a Mexican legend about a man named Pedro Linares who dreamt of strange creatures he had never seen before. When he woke up, he recreated these creatures out of paper-mâché and called them "alebrijes." Today, alebrijes are a popular folk art tradition in Mexico, teaching children to embrace their creativity and see the beauty in the unusual and unexpected.



Greece – The Tortoise and the Hare

This classic tale tells the story of a slow-moving tortoise who challenges a fast and arrogant hare to a race. Despite the hare's initial lead, he grows overconfident and takes a nap, allowing the tortoise to win the race.



Ghana – Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock

Anansi the spider is a popular figure in West African folklore. In this story, he tricks all the other animals into believing that a moss-covered rock has magical powers. They all bow down to the rock until Anansi reveals the truth and teaches them a lesson about gullibility.





TRADITIONAL STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD:



England: The Monkey's Paw

This spooky story centers around a cursed monkey's paw that grants its owner three wishes. However, each wish comes with a terrible price that the owner must pay. The story is a cautionary tale about the dangers of greed and the unintended consequences of our desires.



China – The Legend of Mulan

This story tells the tale of a brave young woman who disguises herself as a man to fight in the Chinese army. Despite facing numerous challenges and obstacles, she proves her strength and loyalty and becomes a respected warrior.



Ethiopia – The Lion and the Mouse

In this fable, a tiny mouse is caught by a lion, but the mouse pleads for mercy and promises to repay the favor someday. The lion laughs at the idea that a tiny mouse could ever help him, but he lets the mouse go. Later, the lion is trapped in a hunter's net, and the mouse comes to his rescue by gnawing through the ropes.





TRADITIONAL STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD:



Bahrain: The Pearl Diver

This story tells the tale of a poor pearl diver who dreams of finding a valuable pearl that will change his life. He spends years diving and searching, but he never finds the pearl of his dreams. Eventually, he realizes that the true treasure was the joy and satisfaction he found in his work and the love of his family. The story teaches the importance of gratitude and finding happiness in the present moment.



Brazil – The Curupira

The Curupira is a mischievous creature from Brazilian folklore who is said to protect the forests and animals. He has bright red hair and backward feet that confuse hunters who are trying to track him. According to legend, the Curupira will punish hunters who kill animals needlessly or destroy the forest. He may also help those who show respect for nature by guiding them out of the forest or leading them to food and water. The story is often used to teach children the importance of respecting nature and the consequences of greed and destruction.



Australia – The Rainbow Serpent

According to Aboriginal Australian legend, the Rainbow Serpent is a powerful and benevolent creature who created the rivers, lakes, and land. The serpent is said to live in waterholes and appears in the sky as a rainbow after a storm. The story teaches children to respect and appreciate the natural world and its power.





TRADITIONAL STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD:



Peru: The legend of Alpaca

According to this legend, the alpaca was once a selfish and vain creature with beautiful fur. However, when the Incan god Pachamama saw the alpaca's arrogance, he transformed the creature's fur into a rough and unappealing texture to teach it a lesson. The story teaches children the importance of humility and valuing inner qualities over outward appearance.



Vietnam - The Legend of the Magic Drum

In this legend, a poor boy named Tam is given a magic drum that can summon food and wealth when he plays it. However, he soon learns that the drum has a powerful and dangerous spirit inside, and it begins to take over his life. The story teaches children the importance of using power responsibly and the dangers of greed.



Italy - La Befana

La Befana is an Italian legend about an old woman who delivers gifts to children on the night of January 5th. She is said to have declined an invitation from the Wise Men to visit the baby Jesus, but later regretted it and set out to find the baby, bringing toys and treats as gifts. La Befana teaches children about the importance of generosity and kindness during the holiday season.





TRADITIONAL STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD:



Saudi Arabia – The Well of Zamzam

Long ago in the valley of Bakkah, Hajar searched for water for her baby, Ismail. She ran between the hills of Safa and Marwah seven times, praying for help under the desert sun. When she returned, she saw her child's heel strike the ground—and a spring burst forth. This life-giving water, called Zamzam, turned a dry valley into a place where people could live and gather. Travelers shared it, and a small settlement grew around the holy spring, reminding everyone that perseverance and faith can bring relief even in harsh places.



Turkey – Shahmaran, the Serpent Queen

In Anatolia, a kind youth named Cemşab stumbled into an underground garden ruled by Shahmaran—half woman, half serpent—wise and gentle. He lived among her people, learning the secrets of healing. When he returned to the surface, greedy rulers demanded Shahmaran's capture to gain her powers. Betrayed, Shahmaran offered herself to protect the innocent. Her wisdom lived on through herbal knowledge and the lesson that true power serves life. In many towns, her image watches over bathhouses and healers, a reminder to keep promises and to use knowledge for good.



Morocco – Isli and Tislit—Lakes of Imilchil

Among the High Atlas tribes, two young people—Isli (the groom) and Tislit (the bride)—fell in love, but their families forbade marriage. Their tears flowed so fiercely they formed two mountain lakes that could never meet. Seeing this sorrow, the families began a yearly gathering so future couples could choose freely. Today, people tell the story at the Imilchil Marriage Festival, where music, henna, and bright textiles celebrate love and community choice. The lakes, calm and blue, still face each other like two mirrors across the stone valleys.





TRADITIONAL STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD:



Egypt – Isis and Osiris

Wise Osiris taught people to farm the Nile's banks. His jealous brother Set trapped him, scattering his body across Egypt. Isis, Osiris's devoted wife, journeyed the land, gathering each piece and using magic and love to restore him. Osiris became lord of the afterlife, while their son Horus grew to defend justice on earth. Each year, the Nile's flood and the sprouting fields recall the cycle of loss and renewal—how care can mend what is broken and how balance returns after chaos.



Thailand – Loy Krathong & the River Goddess

When the rivers run full under the moon, Thai families fold banana leaves into little boats—krathong—decorated with flowers, candles, and wishes. They set them afloat to thank Phra Mae Khongkha, the water mother, and to let go of grudges and bad luck. The drifting lights become a path of moving stars, carrying hopes downstream. In some places, people say the nagas—serpent guardians—watch the currents, guiding the krathong safely through the night.



India

King Bhagiratha prayed for the heavenly river Ganga to descend and purify the earth. The river's power was so great that Shiva caught her in his hair, softening her fall and guiding her into many channels to nourish fields and villages. As Ganga flowed across the land, she became a symbol of renewal and compassion—water that cleanses, connects, and sustains. Pilgrims still honor her with lamps placed on leaves, their flickering lights floating between sky and shore.



STORYTELLING ILLUSTRATION

Use this page to illustrate your group story or brainstorm ideas in how to present the story:



STORYTELLING NEW VOCABULARY



Use this page to write down the translated words
that your group learned:

Country: _____ Language: _____

Word:

Translation:

Meaning:

Word:

Translation:

Meaning:

Word:

Translation:

Meaning:

Word:

Translation:

Meaning:

Word:

Translation:

Meaning:

Word:

Translation:

Meaning:



GROUP REFLECTION: STORY ANALYSIS



What is the country of the story?

What is the story about?

Who are the main characters of the story?

How they look like?

What language is spoken in this country?

What are the most interesting words that your group discovered?

What was the biggest challenge of our group during this project?

How the group overcame this challenge?

What is the overall thoughts about the project and the learning process?





Thank you for downloading my resources!

Remember that on my website, I have diverse materials and resources that help you to flip your classroom into a multicultural place, where your students will be able to experience the world through Arts and culture. Several Multicultural activities, for all grade levels, Project-Based Learning, Arts Integration, and student choice-based are some examples.

I am glad to have you on this journey and remember: Be Creative Today!

Camila Vasconcelos

msmilaarts.com



YouTube Channel: [Ms. Mila Arts & Culture](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMsMilaArtsCulture)



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