**MULTICULTURAL FOCUS**

**Songs and Tales Around the World** – Folk tales, songs, slide show, craft display, and partial costume changes. Sample songs and a few tales from the program can be heard on the “One World Family” sampler on media page of Jon’s web site. School programs employ several of those songs embedded in a multicultural panorama of folk tales. Adaptable for all grades k-8.

Curriculum connections –

* School-wide multicultural or international day
* Research a country and its folk tales, practice the tale and present it along with a slide show or other report of the country.
* E-conferencing with foreign students.

Sample songs and tales:

* Song: “We’re All a Family under One Sky,” by Ruth Pelham – call-and-response song celebrating diversity.
* Chinese tale –“The Goddess Kwan Yin” (Buddhist tale) Chin Po Wan, A rich man who gives away everything to people in need, goes to the Western Sea to ask the Goddess Kwan Yin why he has no more to give to the poor, since he has lived a good life. He accidentally gives up all 3 questions he is allowed to ask in order to ask ones for the giant serpent, inn keeper, and homeowner he meets on the way. But their answers turn out to benefit him and restore his wealth.
* Bilingual song: “Mi casa es su casa,” by Michele Valeri. A traveler passing through South America is invited home by an anaconda, a llama, and a burro, who all sing, “Mi casa es su casa whenever you are near/ Mi casa es su casa, ; sit down and rest, my dear.”
* Bilingual Mexican tale - Tía Miseria –An old lady is plagued by rude boys who trample her garden, eat her prized pears and tease her mercilessly. Through kindness to a mysterious traveler, she acquires the magic gift to make anyone stay up in her pear tree till she releases them. She uses it on the boys – and on Death, when he comes to take her away at the end of the tale.
* Turkish tale – Nasradin Hoja’s’s Fine Coat – the alternately wise and foolish Hodja is invited to the wealthy muktar’s home for a banquet. Hodja loses track of time during the day and, to avoid being late, he arrives in his work clothes. After the muktar completely ignores him, the Hodja goes home to bathe and dresses up in his finest clothes. When he returns, the muktar treats him royally, but instead of eating the delicious food, the Hodja rubs it all over his clothes, explaining to the dumbfounded muktar, “Since I haven’t changed, it must be my clothes you are honoring. Out of respect, I am feeding them first.”
* Appalachian folk song – “I Wish I Was a Mole In the Ground” with banjo – students make up verses
* African tale – “Anansi and the Hat Shaking Dance” While Anansi’s aunt goes to the store to get supplies, he is left in charge of the pot of cooking rice. Yielding to temptation, he begins by tasting, then eats half the pot.. When visitors pay him a surprise visit, he hides the rice under his hat,. When they ask why he is jumping around, he tells them he is doing the “hat shaking dance.”
* Song: “It Could Be a Wonderful World” –“If we could consider each other/ a neighbor, a sister, or brother,/ it could be a wonderful, wonderful world,/ it could be a wonderful world.”

**Latin American Journey - The Wide World of Hispanic Heritage** - Many people speak of Hispanic culture as if were homogeneous, but, in fact, it is extremely diverse. This program provides a sampling of stories, songs, and literary excerpts from the twenty countries and six territories of Latin America located in North, South, and Central America and the Caribbean. A slide show presents historical background of ancient civilizations, the European conquest and some modern issues. It also includes some personal photos Jon has taken in Mexico, Central and South America. A display of traditional crafts enriches the experience.

Curriculum connections:

* Hispanic Heritage Month
* Research projects on different countries that can include interviews with Hispanic family members and other local residents.
* E- correspondence projects with Hispanic students in other countries

Sample stories and songs:

* Mayan myth – “The People of Corn”
* Mayan legend – “Rosha and the Sun”
* Mexican wonder tale, “Tía Miseria”
* Puerto Rican tale of foolishness: “Juan Bobo Goes to Work”
* Humorous tales of Pedro Urdemales, the Trickster
* Chilean wonder tale,“The Enchanted Cow”
* Song -“Mi casa es su casa”
* Song - “Cielito Lindo”
* South American Indian tale – “The Calabash Man”
* Books: A Star In the Forest, by Laura Resau; Esperanza Rising, by Pam Muñoz Ryan; Colibri, by Ann Cameron; Harvesting Hope, Cesar Chavez biography
* Song - “De colores” & the story of Cesar Chavez & the United Farm Workers