

Our Community Shares Different Foods

Food is an important part of any culture. When people move to a new place, they often make and eat the same foods they are used to. Their neighbors may eat different kinds of foods. In communities around the United States, different cultures often share foods with each other.

Europeans have brought many foods to our communities. You have probably eaten pasta from the Italian culture, waffles from the culture of Germany, and bagels from the Jewish culture. Have you ever tasted Russian borscht (a cold soup made from beets) or a Greek gyro (roasted lamb in a pocket of pita bread)?





Asian Americans also have brought their cultures' foods to the United States. Have you eaten Japanese sushi? Or Chinese chow mein? What about pho (a hearty soup of noodles and meat) from Vietnam? Or tandoori chicken (a spicy chicken dish) from India? Many Americans like to eat foods shared by Latino cultures. Tacos and tamales are popular Mexican American foods. Gallo pinto is a dish of fried rice and black beans from Costa Rica.

African Americans share such foods as hush puppies (fried cornmeal) and hoppin' john (a stew of pork, rice, and black-eyed peas).

What are some of the foods that people eat in your community? What cultures do you think first brought these foods?



There are many Native American languages, including Cherokee and Navajo. Many words and names we use in English—such as skunk, tomato, and Kentucky—are borrowed from Native American languages.

The English language comes from Europe. In some communities around the United States, people speak other European languages, such as French, German, Greek, and Swedish. Kindergarten, poodle, and atlas are words in English that were brought to this country by European Americans.

What are some of the languages that people use in your community? What languages do you use at home?





Our Community Shares Holidays

People celebrate many different holidays in communities around the United States. Holidays are times when we remember important people or events. They are special days when we celebrate or have a party. Each culture remembers its own special days and people.

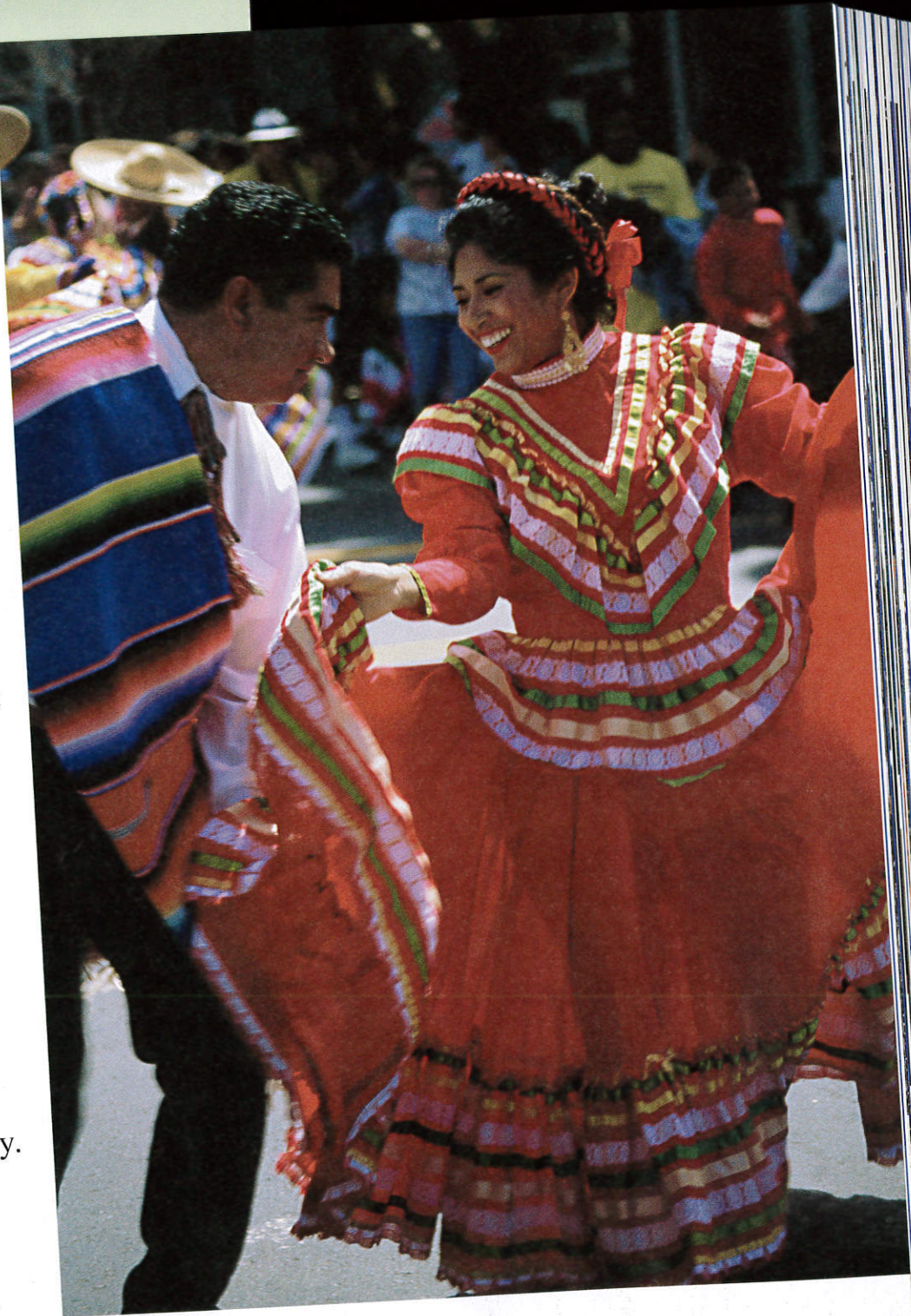
People from Europe have brought many holidays to the United States. Halloween, St. Patrick's Day, and Valentine's Day are all holidays that have been celebrated for hundreds of years in European cultures.

During the month of December, three different cultures celebrate three different holidays in the

ted States. African
merican families
ebrate the holiday
Kwanzaa. Jewish
amilies celebrate the
oliday of Hanukkah.
any Christian cultures
are the holiday of
Christmas.

The fifth of May is an
important day to different
cultures in the United
States. It is Children's
Day to Japanese
Americans. It is Cinco
de Mayo to Mexican
Americans. Cinco de
Mayo honors a famous
battle in Mexican history.

Different cultures
celebrate the new year
in different ways. Most



people celebrate the New Year on the first day of
January. The Chinese culture, however, celebrates
their New Year on a different date each year. Their
celebration lasts for 15 days.

What are some of the holidays celebrated in your
community? What holidays do you share with your
family and friends?

Our Community Shares Cultural Traditions

Each culture has its own **traditions**. Traditions are things that people do together year after year. Traditions might involve games, sports, clothing, and the arts.

Many popular sports in America are traditions of different cultures. The sports of soccer, golf, ice-skating, and skiing were brought to America by cultures from Europe. Surfing is a sport first shared by the Polynesian culture of the Hawaiian Islands.

Cultures also share their traditions in the arts. American musical traditions of jazz, gospel, and rock and roll began with contributions by African American artists. Salsa and tango music and dance have roots with Latino cultures. Asian Americans





the traditions in puppetry and drama.

Almost every culture has a traditional dance to
re. Do you know how to clog? Or belly dance?

logging is an American tradition started by
European Americans from Ireland, Scotland, and
Netherlands. Belly dancing is a tradition of
Middle Eastern cultures.

What are some traditions that cultures share in
our community? What are some favorite traditions
in your family?

Wrap-Up

The American culture has its own traditions, too.
Americans play baseball and football. We celebrate
Thanksgiving. We eat foods like hot dogs and apple
pie. These are all part of our American culture. Can
you think of other examples?