



Illinois 4-H | Spark Ideas. Ignite Possibilities.

Have you ever wondered about the many cultural differences in the world? Study a country's government, agriculture, housing, and industry while you explore cultures through food, clothing, music, and crafts.



Exploring 4-H Diversity & Cultural Awareness

Spark Activity: Pass the Potatoes Please

Here in Illinois, we love french fries, baked potatoes and mashed potatoes. Is that how everyone eats their potatoes?

Find out how people around the world prepare and eat potatoes. Russians eat potato latkes, but how do the Irish eat potatoes? Australians? Africans? In your hometown? Find out how people in at least eight countries prepare and eat potatoes. If possible, prepare one of these dishes and share it with your family, friends or your 4-H club.



4-H Project Levels and Goals

Beginner

- Create a family tree
- Share a family tradition and its origin with members of your project/club
- Learn to say hello in 4 languages
- Play a game from another country
- Learn about different musical instruments used around the world

Intermediate

- Track where everyday products are made and identify the countries on a world map
- Participate in an international celebration in your area
- Make a dish that represents another culture
- Provide service to an international relief organization
- Using reliable resources, identify important events happening around the world

Advanced

- Research international careers and invite a speaker to share how one prepares for that career
- Learn about various musical styles and dances from other countries
- Organize an international event/fashion show and display clothing from various cultures
- Invite a Peace Corps volunteer to speak to your club
- Invite someone who has immigrated to the U.S. to speak to your group

Put Your Project Into Action

Show Your Skills

- 4-H open house
- Club demonstrations
- County fair project exhibit

Service and Leadership

- Complete a service project with an international organization
- Study an issue that is worldwide and recognized by people in various countries
- Befriend an exchange student in your school or community and find out about their country
- Discover how the 4-H program around the world is meeting global needs
- Become a part of the International 4-H Exchange program
- Lead an activity with your club that helps them learn about another culture
- Study another country's political and governmental structures
- Plan an international night for your county where clubs share food, games, dances and other information about a country they select

Entrepreneurship

- 4-H enterprise gardens
- Diversity consultant

Technology Connection

- Google Arts & Culture is a non-profit initiative bringing cultural institutions and artists to you from around the world
<https://artsandculture.google.com>
- Pen pal (virtual or by mail)

Connecting with a Mentor

- Local college's Multicultural Department
- Local Returned Peace Corps Volunteer groups

Events

- Attend a local cultural event or international festival
- 4-H International Fest



Careers Related to Diversity & Cultural Awareness

Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion Officer
Human Resources

International Policy
Foreign Affairs Officer
Diplomat

Start a Conversation

Are you curious about other countries?
How do you connect to the larger world?
What is your cultural connection?
What is your family heritage?
What is your favorite cultural food?

Want to learn more?

go.illinois.edu/4Hdiversity

Explore more at Illinois 4-H!

4-h.extension.illinois.edu



Illinois Extension

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Credits: 4-H Passport to the World – University of Illinois | Food, Culture and Reading - <https://4-h.org/parents/curriculum/food-culture-reading/> | Ohio - 4-H Around the Globe: <https://extensionpubs.osu.edu/4-h-around-the-globe/> | Seeing i2i: <https://marketplace.unl.edu/ne4h/curriculum/4h6510.html> | Texas – Global Citizen: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/international-travel/> | University of California 4-H Project Sheet Series- http://4h.ucanr.edu/Projects/Project_Sheets/WeConnect - <https://shop4-h.org/products/citizenship-curriculum-weconnect-facilitators-guide> | University of Illinois Extension staff that contributed to this resource include Dr. Michelle Cox, Michele Aavang, and Sabrina Agee | 4-H Spark Sheets are a collaborative effort of 4-H staff, volunteers, alumni and teens from across Illinois. A big thanks to the many contributors and reviewers!