

Sites useful for background for *Children Just Like Me* exhibit and book activities:

Bogna's Culture: Rural Poland. Read concise background and view spectacular photographs of Poland's people, land, and culture on the Global Volunteers site:

<http://www.globalvolunteers.org/1main/poland/polandgeography.htm>

Celina's Culture: Indigenous Brazil, Rain Forest. This trustworthy site includes reliable facts as well as lesson plans. Students will need a Flash 4 Plug-in for the high tech journey into Amazonia. <http://www.pbs.org/journeyintoamazonia/explorer.html>

Erdene's Culture: Mongolia. Read short articles with engaging photographs in *Mongolia Today* e-zine. Archived issues discuss many topics from Genghis Khan to the horse-headed mandolin to the Naadam Festival to Hun hairstyles. <http://www.mongoliatoday.com/>

Esta's Culture: Maasai, Tanzania/Kenya. Kakuto Ole Maimai Hamisi established this all-Maasai site to help others understand about the Maasai people and culture. This extensive Web site features beautiful and colorful images with sensitive descriptions of cultural practices from a native Maasai who studied in America. <http://www.maasai-infoline.org/>

Levi's Culture: Northern Canada, Inuit. Go to the "Kid's Stop" page of the Indian and Northern Affairs Council (*Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada*) for interactive games (with a Flash 6 Plug-in), stories and pictures as well as explanations on the FAQ page.

http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ks/index_e.html

Mohammed's Culture: Urban Egypt, Cairo. Join Dr. Scott Carroll on a one-week excavation at an archaeological dig site two hours from Cairo. Learn about Egypt's history, culture, religion week by week. Start with week 1 and the News Flash Intro to get your bearings, then visit any week for more about Egypt or more about archaeology. <http://www.website1.com/odyssey/>

Olia's Culture: Urban Russia, Moscow. This site was put together by American Russians who wanted to help others understand what it means to be Russian. Varied and colorful, this site includes art and literature, sightseeing, recipes, and a children's page with music and classic Russian fairy tales. <http://www.russia-in-us.com/>

Omar's Culture: Cancun, Mexico.

Sites for Cancun abound, but most sell hotel rooms and guided tours, including side trips to the Maya ruins. This page from a Web site of sacred places views the pyramid at nearby Chichén Itzá (pronounced chee-CHEN eet-SAH) in a richer context. Be sure to click on the link to the "chirped echo," an acoustical phenomenon of the pyramid which is described and explained in language accessible enough to most middle grades students—and they can even *hear* it, contrasted with the chirp of the quetzal bird!

http://www.sacredsites.com/americas/mexico/chichen_itza.html

Rosita's Culture: Western Australia Aboriginal. This commercial site includes more Australian culture links than sales items, though you can purchase a didgeridoo or a boomerang if you wish. Notice Aboriginal art items and dreamtime story collection.

<http://www.yidaki.com.au/index.html>

Sarala's Culture: Southern India, Tamil Nadu. Click on the ThinkQuest links to learn about Indian culture, politics and government, sports, and other topics, all with further specific pages to open. <http://library.thinkquest.org/11372/data/>

Thi Lien's Culture: Northern Vietnam, Dao.

These "Kid's Eye on Asia" pages offer thumbnail history, culture, and geography insights with lots of colorful photographs.

<http://www.stmnftsc.melb.catholic.edu.au/kidseyes/vietnam/vietnam/>

General sites helpful in multicultural education:

How Far Is It? <http://www.indo.com/cgi-bin/dist>

Use this interactive site to find out how many miles, as the crow flies, from your town to any other world location. On the same site, you can convert currency, or go directly to

<http://www.indo.com/tips/currency.html>

Select a country and study its profile in **The World Fact Book:**

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

Practice learning **countries and capitals** at <http://www.what-is-the-capital-of.com/>. Quiz yourself by continent. Students must spell capital cities correctly in order to succeed.

Intended for homeschooling parents of younger students (through 4th grade), the ideas and activities in "**Helping Your Child Learn Geography**" will suggest class and group projects and identify inexpensive resources and materials.

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Geography/title.html>

These lesson plans developed by Montgomery County Public Schools teachers use familiar children's books to teach elementary **economics and geography** at

http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/socialstd/Econ_Geog.html. See especially *The Silk Route* and *Everybody Cooks Rice*.