

Celebrating Diversity and Multiculturalism Through Crafts: Toolkit



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Table of Contents

Statement of Purpose	3
Philosophy	3
What Do We Mean by Multiculturalism?	3
Celebrating Diversity and Multiculturalism	3
Crafty and Cultural	3
Important Definitions	4
Orange Exercise	4
Crafts	5
• Ramadan	5
• Diwali	6
• Pride	7
• Dia De los Muertos	8
• Multiculturals Paper Dolls	9
Booklist	10
Contact	12

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this toolkit is to help librarians understand the importance of diversity and provide examples of crafts that celebrate diversity within their libraries.

Philosophy

Multicultural crafts help children to respect and celebrate the differences in everyone. Finding crafts and activities to explore and value multiculturalism and diversity takes research and practice. This can be done by looking at the community where you work, talking with teachers, and listening to patrons' feedback. You will find that there is a real celebration within each and every person and their uniqueness. By looking at all of the colorful ways in which other cultures celebrate or by observing events that they hold dear, you may find the core of a craft program or community activity.

What do we mean by multiculturalism?

We feel that multiculturalism is about recognizing differences and valuing them as strengths. We should be working together to ensure that all children are provided with equal, equitable, nondiscriminatory library experiences. In essence, we focus on the learning concept that integrates and explores the core value of many cultures and provide experiences that are cohesive in the realm of multiculturalism to engage children in the community.

Celebrating diversity & multiculturalism

The beauty in our human differences really relates to how we are all more alike than different. Unification is the heart of our human experience and this is what brings us together as one. Celebrating diversity is about combining our common threads as a way to highlight all of the wondrous ways that we are different. It all starts with knowledge and awareness. As you become aware of diverse perspectives and become willing to walk in another's shoes, you create ways to perpetuate fairness and equity. Essentially, celebrating diversity and multiculturalism is the ability to celebrate with others in a manner that transcends all.

Crafty and cultural

Finding crafts and activities to explore and value multiculturalism and diversity takes research and practice. This can be done by looking at the community where you work, talking with teachers, and listening to patrons' feedback. You will find that there is a real celebration within each and every person and their uniqueness. By looking at all of the colorful ways in which other cultures celebrate or by observing events that they hold dear, you may find the core of a craft program or community activity.

Important Definitions:

Term	Definition
Cultural Appropriation	Is the act of taking or using things from a culture that is not your own, especially without showing that you understand or respect this culture.
Exploitation	The action of making use and benefiting from a source.
Internalize Dominance	When members of a group believe and act out imposed stereotypes.
Assimilation	The process of a person or group's culture, language, and/or customs resembling those of another person or group.
Cultural Exchange	An opportunity to explore cultures, traditions, customs, beliefs, societies, languages, through a different lens.
Cultural Sensitivity	Being aware that cultural differences and similarities exist and that they have an effect on our values, the way we learn, and our behavior.
Diversity	The existence of a variety of cultural or ethnic groups within a society.
Multiculturalism	The presence of, or support for the presence of, several distinct cultural or ethnic groups within a society,

Orange Exercise

This is a great after Storytime activity!

Grab a couple of oranges and hand one to each child. Ask them to examine their oranges carefully and point out any bumps, bruises, or marks on them. Next, ask them to draw a face on their orange and then place all the oranges in a large bowl. After that, invite them to find their orange among the others. Ask them how they knew it was theirs. Lastly, help the kids peel their oranges and then put back into the bowl. Encourage them to find their oranges once again. Most will not be able to find their oranges now and they will say that all the oranges are the same.

Note: This is a great visual demonstration which shows that we may all look different from each other on the outside, but if you “peeled” each of us, you will find we are all quite alike on the inside 😊.

Ramadan

Craft #1. MOSAIC COASTERS

Materials Needed:

- + 4x4 Paper Tiles - Can be purchased on Amazon - 50 plain white square coasters \$8.99
- + Permanent Markers (variety of colors, red, blue, brown, green, purple, yellow, gold, silver, black, and pink)
- + Stick on gems and rhinestones - Can be purchased on Amazon - 2580 pieces for \$7.99

How To:

1. Pass the coasters to kids and parents/guardians.
2. Show some examples of Eid al-Fitr designs
3. Ask them to draw images that speak to them
4. Add gems and rhinestones

Note: This lovely craft will help children understand tradition, culture, and festivities of Ramadan and Eid in an awesome way. The crafts are simple enough for kids to do on their own or with moderate adult supervision.



Diwali

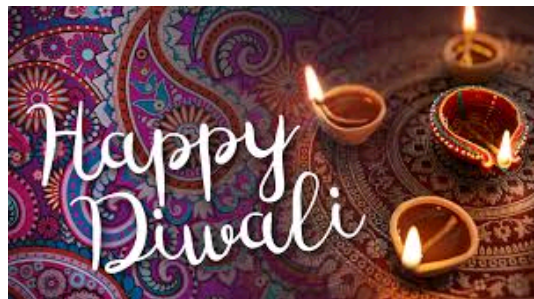
Craft #2. PAINTED DIYAS

Materials Needed:

- + Mini 2-inch Terracotta Clay Pots
- + Paint in assorted colors
- + Paintbrushes
- + Permanent markers. We recommend using the metallic collection from Sharpie
- + Small bowl of water for paint brushes

How To:

1. Create a painting station with paints, brushes, and water. Use a plastic tablecloth or newspapers to protect the table.
2. Pass out clay pots and have samples on display to give the kids ideas and inspiration.
3. Let them paint any design they like
4. Air dry for about 30 minutes
5. When dry, add a candle or battery operated tea light to illuminate at night on Diwali.



Pride!

Craft #3. PRIDE RAINBOW STREAMERS

Materials Needed:

- + Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple ribbon cut to 1 ½ to 2 ft long
- + Wooden rings (2 in)

How To:

1. Cut the ribbons into individual pieces. Take care to have them all fairly centered.
2. Find the center of the ribbons and pull it through the middle of the wooden ring just a bit.
3. Next, take the bottom of the ribbons and pull them around the outside of the ring and through the loop you made with the center of the ribbons and pull tight.

Note: What a great way for children and families celebrate Pride, celebrate their love, and show support to the LGBTQ+ community!



Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

Craft #4. MINI TIN ALTAR

Materials Needed:

- + Metal tins- think Altoids
- + Craft glue or glue sticks
- + Stickers
- + Washi tape in assorted designs and colors
- + Ribbons
- + Magazines & cards
- + Any knick knacks
- + Image of a loved one



Here is my mini altar dedicated to my long time best feline friend Bandit. Miss you buddy -Kimberli^^^

How To:

1. Have kids think of a person or theme they would like to dedicate their mini altar to.
2. Ask them to spend some time decorating their tin.
3. Let them know they can add anything they want and let that lead them to be inspired to create.
4. Use glue & stickers or washi tape to decorate the inside and outside of the tin.

Multicultural Paper Dolls

Craft #5. PAPER DOLLS

Materials Needed:

- + 6-inch
- + paper doll cutouts
- + Foam sheets
- + Buttons
- + Feathers
- + Sequins or beads
- + Pom poms!
- + Fabric scraps
- + Yarn
- + Color markers
- + Glue sticks



How To:

1. Ask children to choose their paper dolls.
2. Use markers to draw eyes, nose, mouth, ears.
3. Use glue to attach yarn for hair or draw hair with markers.
4. Use glue to attach items to create clothing and any other items the child would like to add to their doll.
5. Use markers to draw on glasses, jewelry, accessories, etc...

Note: This craft is a great way to help children see the differences and similarities that we all have. And also to embrace your own uniqueness and to be proud of who you are.

Celebrating Diversity & Multiculturalism Booklist

Celebrating Diversity

- + *Celebrations! Festivals, carnivals, and feast days from around the world* by Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley, 2006
- + *Children Just Like Me* by Catherine Saunders, 2016
- + *Festivals and Celebrations* by Caryn Jenner, 2017

Chinese New Year

- + *A New Year's Reunion: A Chinese Story* by Yu Li-Quiong, 2011
- + *Bringing in the New Year* by Grace Lin, 2008
- + *D is for Dragon Dance* by Ying Chang Compestine & and YongSheng Xuan, 2018
- + *Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas* by Natasha Yim, 2014
- + *Moonbeams, Dumplings, and Dragonboats* by Nina Simonds, Leslie Swartz, and the Children's Museum Boston, 2002
- + *Sam and the Lucky Money* by Karen Chinn, 1997

Dia De Los Muertos

- + *Clatter Bash! A Day of the Dead Celebration* by Richard Keep, 2004
- + *Day of the Dead: 20 Creative Projects to Make for Your Party or Celebration* by Paula Pascual and Rebecca Woods, 2017
- + *Dia De Los Muertos* by Roseanne Greenfield Thong & Carles Ballesteros, 2015
- + *Follow Me Around Mexico* by Wiley Blevins, 2018

Diwali

- + *Diwali* by Julie Murray, 2018
- + *Diwali Festival of Light* by Rina Singh, 2016
- + *Hurray for Diwali* by Anita Raina Thapan, 2015
- + *Lights, Camera, Diwali* by Amita Roy Shah, 2016
- + *The Diwali Gift* by Shweta Chopra & Schuchi Mehta, 2015

Hanukkah

- + *Hanukkah* by Rachel Koestler-Grack, 2017
- + *Hanukkah Bear* by Eric A. Kimmel, 2016
- + *Hanukkah Delight!* by Leslea Newman, 2016
- + *Is It Hanukkah Yet?* by Chris Barash, 2015
- + *The Runaway Latkes* by Leslie Kimmelman, 2000
- + *The Trees of the Dancing Goat* by Patricia Polacco, 2000

Kwanzaa

- + *My First Kwanzaa* by Karen Katz, 2014
- + *Seven Spools of Thread* by Angela Shealf Medearis, 2000
- + *The Story of Kwanzaa* by Donna L. Washington, 1997
- + *Together for Kwanzaa* by Juwanda G. Ford, 2000

Pride (LGBTQ+)

- + *A is for Activist* by Innosanto Nagara, 2013
- + *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea* by Kai Cheng Thom, 2017
- + *Introducing Teddy* by Jessica Walton, 2016
- + *Pride: Celebrating Diversity & Community* by Robin Stevenson, 2016
- + *Pride: the story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag* by Rob Sanders, 2018
- + *Worm Loves Worm* by J.J. Austrian, Illustrated by Mike Curato, 2016

Ramadan

- + *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors* by Hena Khan, Illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini, 2012
- + *Ramadan Moon* by Na'ima B. Robert and Shirin Adl, 2009
- + *Ramadan the Holy Month of Fasting* by Ausma Zehanat Khan, 2018
- + *Rashad's Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr* by Lisa Bullard, Illustrated by Holli Conger, 2012

We Are the Same, We Are Different

- + *Children Just Like Me: A New Celebration of Children Around the World*, 2016
- + *Everyone Makes a Difference* by C. Leaney, 2013
- + *Shades of People* by Shelley Rotner and Sheila M. Kelly, 2009
- + *Skin Again* by Bell Hooks, Illustrated by Chris Raschka, 2004
- + *The Color of Us* by Karen Katz, 2012
- + *What Makes Us Unique?* By Dr. Jillian Roberts, Illustrated by Cindy Revell, 2016

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