

UNIT PLAN BRAINSTORM



Celebrating Cambodia (English Language Arts, History, Social Studies)

There are over 16 million people that live in Cambodia. Inspire your students to learn about these millions of people and their rich cultural history. As a class, find Cambodia on a map and walk through some of its prominent landmarks, cultural practices and history to give everyone basic context of the country. Next, have your students choose one aspect of Cambodia and explore it in-depth through independent research. Some ideas for research could be Cambodian language, food or art. Once everyone has researched their topic, have them create a colorful poster that showcases the country. Let your students decorate their poster with Cambodian colors, pictures they've found online or found objects that represent the country's culture! One by one, have students present their topic to the class. You can even play Cambodian music to set a backdrop to the presentation. Once everyone's done, lead a group discussion on what stood out to them about the country and what they would still like to learn.

To support this unit, use *The Incredible Journey of Food Creativity Page in the Discover and Create Section.*

Sugar, Spice and Everything Rice (History, Social Studies, Culinary Arts)

Over half the world's population depends on rice. In fact, archaeologists estimate that the history of cultivating rice dates back more than 9,000 years to ancient China! Begin your exploration of this small-but-mighty seed by having a class discussion about how significant rice is in Asian history and to the Asian economy. Make sure to highlight how rice is grown, what dishes it's used in and any important traditions it's involved in. After exploring rice's impact in Asia, it's time to jet across the world! Each week, focus on a different continent to highlight the way rice is grown there and some of the popular dishes from those countries. Some dishes to inspire your class are paella from Spain, jollof from West Africa or arroz chaufa from Peru. You can also use this as a jumping-off point to talk about how cuisine, agriculture and climate differ from region to region. After your rice trip around the world, have your students go to their caregivers and discover a rice dish that's important to their family or culture. To culminate this unit of study, have everyone prepare their dish and bring it into class for a giant rice potluck!

To support this unit, use the *Giving Visual Art a Bit of Dimension Creativity Page in the Respond and Connect section.*

Balancing Act (Theater, Science, Physical Education)

From a tightrope walker in Russia, to a trapeze artist in Las Vegas, to an acrobat in Cambodia, one skill that all circus performers need to master is balance. To dive into an exploration of balance around the world, show your class a video of a circus act and ask them to watch it through the lens of balance. Afterwards, prompt them with questions like: *How would you define balance? How do you think the performer stayed balanced? and What affects the difficulty of balancing? Why?* Use that discussion as a way to examine how physics creates balance, being sure to study gravity! With your class, examine how Newton's laws play a role in something like tightrope walking. Next, have your class try to apply these concepts in real life by getting on their feet! Tape a line or zigzag shape on the floor, and have students balance on the tape as if it's a rope. Make the activity more challenging by having students carry a book while walking, place a box on their head or carry a heavy backpack. You can also experiment with balance in the classroom by making towers out of blocks, books or popsicle sticks. Once, your class has experimented with these physics in real life, have each student look up a video of a circus feat, and then have them explain how it's possible with their newfound scientific knowledge!

To support this unit, use the *Derring-Do With the Greatest of Ease Activity in the Discover and Create section.*

