

The State Fair of
TEXAS
Curriculum

FOOD FAIR
GRADE 6 SOCIAL STUDIES

MIND YOUR MANNERS

FOOD ETIQUETTE & CULTURE @ THE FAIR





Mind Your Manners Food Etiquette & Culture @ the Fair



In this lesson students will:

- ★ Identify and describe common traits that define cultures.
- ★ Locate and use valid sources to acquire information about various world cultures.
- ★ Identify the elements of “frame of reference” that influenced participants at the Fair
- ★ Create an infographic representing the culture of a specific nation of their choice.

Did you know that in Japan, tipping a waiter is considered insulting? Were you aware that in India, people never touch food with their left hands? Each country on Earth has a unique culture about food and dining etiquette. As you explore the fairgrounds, visiting food vendors, watching celebrity chefs, and witnessing kitchen competitions, you will see how food can define the cultural values of a country.

Standards

- ★ Social Studies TEKS: 6.15(B), 6.21(A)
- ★ ELAR TEKS: 6.9, 6.17
- ★ Art TEKS: 6.1(A), 6.2(B)

Before You Go

- ★ Set up a formal dining table with proper silverware.
 - * Invite a student to come to the front of the classroom and demonstrate which fork to use for salad, dessert, and the main course.
- ★ If the students don't know what to do, choose one to role-play with!
- ★ Make it fun, so it's not embarrassing. Try using fancy voices.
- ★ Explain each utensil's function as you go.
 - * Ask the students to describe how they learned proper table manners and food etiquette (be prepared for some students to say they have not learned).
- ★ Hold a brief discussion about why it might be important to know this skill.
- ★ Eating at a fancy restaurant or knowing what to do at a business lunch are good examples of important reasons to acquire this skill.





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- ★ Explain that various cultures from around the world have unique ideas about manners, etiquette, and dining behaviors.
- ★ Show [this video](#) describing 10 Unusual Food Etiquettes from Around the World.
- ★ On their trip to the State Fair of Texas, students will become social scientists and researchers, observing cultural behaviors related to food, etiquette, and dining.

Plan Your Route.

- ★ Go to the Creative Arts Building to watch cooking demonstrations and kitchen competitions.

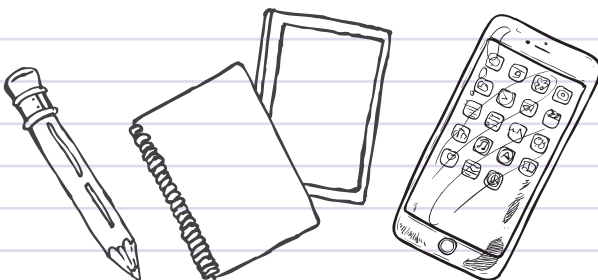
While you're There

The objective of your visit is to gather information about cultural attitudes related to food, etiquette, and manners.



Optional Materials to Bring

- ★ Smart Phone or Tablet
- ★ Pencil & Notepad



SAMPLERS

- Stop by the Creative Arts Building to see master chefs at work and kitchen competitions. Write your observations in your notebook.
- Observe fellow fairgoers as they sample food from concessionaires and vendors.
- Pay attention to how guests interact with food samples.
- Do they take one sample, or do they take more than one?
- What do they do with their trash?
- Politely ask other guests about their cultural beliefs related to food and etiquette.



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Plan Your Route.

- ★ Next, make your way through the fairgrounds observing the different foods. Notice how the other fair goers show food etiquette as they eat.

DIGEST

- ★ Ponder the following questions as you observe and explore.
 - Do all guests eat with utensils?
 - How many fair goers are using their hands?
 - Are napkins available and used by all guests?
 - Do people belonging to certain cultural groups avoid or embrace particular foods?
 - Can you see how any cultures have combined or spread, in the food and etiquette you see at the Fair?
- ★ Describe two examples.
- ★ How do you think this happened?



After the Fair

When you return to class following your State Fair visit, you will create an infographic describing the cultural expectations about food etiquette in a nation of your choosing!

- ★ Start by reading this *Huffington Post* article, [“Dining Etiquette from Around the World”](#).
- ★ Choose a specific country to research.
- ★ Before you get started on the design of your infographic, think about the images you will include.
 - * The images and colors should give the viewer a strong hint as to what the infographic is about.
 - * Google “infographic” and click on “Images”. This will give you a large number of great examples to inspire you in your design.
 - * Keep in mind, simple and clean infographics are easier for the viewer to read.
- ★ Write a letter to the Travel Channel, asking them to include your infographic in their magazine.

