

Multicultural Paper Dolls Family Project

As a part of our study of geography and family traditions, our next "Family Project" will be an **International Paper Doll**, based on traditional clothes worn in your family's native country.

Included with these directions are some examples to assist our students as they work on this project at home. This project is a wonderful collaboration, as parents can answer questions and help their children investigate their cultural heritage.



We can't wait to see the pride and hard work put into these beautiful paper dolls. We encourage you to use different textiles and media to create the 3D images. Clothes reflect our identity, in some ways express our personality, or show our belonging in a certain group. Parents and

grandparents can talk to their children about traditional clothes versus modern clothes, dress-up clothes for special celebrations versus what kids wear to school or outside to play. Various family cultures may also include differences in clothing used for religious celebrations versus family parties.

We have provided a pattern to ensure all completed dolls are the same size and will fit as we display them on our bulletin boards. The doll may be constructed on the pattern after it has been cut out, or you may choose to use the pattern to trace the doll shape onto



cardboard. Even though these dolls will be pinned to the bulletin board, students are asked to include the reverse side while dressing their dolls.

Along with the doll, this project includes a **narrative description of a special cultural tradition from their family's heritage**. We recognize that not all families still practice the same ceremonies and traditions as their ancestors, but this project gives them the opportunity to learn about their heritage. Students will read their narratives as they present their projects to the class. While this writing assignment is not as long as a report, students are still expected to observe the correct writing form of "introduction, body (including details and explanations), and conclusion." This would make the narrative at least three paragraphs long. Students will be graded on content, neatness, and presentation.

The "introduction" should include information on where your family's cultural heritage originates, how they came to live in America, how long they have been Americans, etc. The "body" of the report should focus in on a specific cultural tradition. Give details about the "who, what, where, when, and how" of the tradition. Explanations may include recipes, pictures of ethnic costumes, etc. The "conclusion" should sum up the experience of learning about the family's cultural heritage and traditions, and tell whether or not that tradition will continue when you grow up and have your own family and home.

The completed doll and essay are due on Friday, November 3, 2017.