J3 Global

Cultures around the World

Winter Break Reading Pack

December 2018 – January 2019

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[](https://publicandculturaldiplomacy3.wordpress.com/2012/03/04/the-role-and-power-of-cultural-diplomacy-in-international-relations/)

Table of Contents

Reading Passage 1: Chinese New Year ..................................................pg. 2

Reading Passage 2: The Sari of India ....................................................pg. 3

Reading Passage 3: The Hanbok of Korea .............................................pg. 4

Reading Passage 4: The Kimono of Japan .............................................pg. 5

Reading Passage 5: Scottish Kilts ..........................................................pg. 6

Reading Passage 6: Dinner in Jamaica ..................................................pg. 7

Reading Passage 7: Dinner in India .......................................................pg. 8

Reading Passage 8: The Korean Wave ...................................................pg. 9

Reading Passage 9: Siesta in Spain .......................................................pg. 10

Reading Passage 10: Bullfighting ..........................................................pg. 11

Reading Passage 11: Islam Today ..........................................................pg. 12

Reading Passage 12: What is Culture? ..................................................pg. 13

Glossary ...................................................................................................pg. 14

Directions

**Step 1:** Carefully read the reading passage.

**Step 2:** As you are reading, write the new words you don’t know in the Glossary in the back of the packet (p. 15 and 16)

**Step 3:** After you finish the reading, answer the comprehension questions below the text.

**Step 4:** Make your own Bronze, Silver, and Gold questions. Try to make as many as possible.

**Step 5:** Answer the two writing prompts (questions). Your answers should be clear. That means you need to focus on GRAMMAR, SPELLING, and WORD ORDER (S-V-C; S-V-O; S-V-IO-ID; etc...). **Take your time and focus on what you are writing / saying**.

**Step 6:** Repeat steps 1 – 5 for each reading passage.

Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year is a very important festival for Chinese people. The holiday is sometimes called the Lunar New Year. The holiday usually begins in January or February, and lasts for 15 days. The last day is the most important day, and is known as the Lantern Festival. Cleaning the whole house before New Year’s Day is believed to being good luck for the next year. People open their doors and windows to let in good luck. People believe that leaving the lights on in the house overnight will scare away evil ghosts and spirits. Every year is represented by an animal. 2018 was the year of the dog, and 2019 will be the year of the boar, or pig.

I. Comprehension Questions

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| What is another name for Chinese New Year? |
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| What is the most important day of Chinese New Year? |
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II. Let’s Make a Question: Write a Bronze, Silver, or Gold question about the reading.

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III. Let’s Write: How does this article relate to you? Compare your culture to the one you read about above.

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The Sari of India

The sari is a clothing style traditionally worn in India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. Though mostly worn by women in modern fashion, the sari is made for both men and women. It can be a gift passed down through generations, or a practical dress worn every day.

Traditionally, the sari has been defined as a single piece of fabric, often with heavier sections to wear it correctly. Today the term has changed to include modern materials like cotton, silk, and more.

I. Comprehension Questions

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| In which countries do people wear a sari? |
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| Who can wear a sari? |
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II. Let’s Make a Question: Write a Bronze, Silver, or Gold question about the reading.

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III. Let’s Write: How does this article relate to you? Compare your culture to the one you read about above.

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The Hanbok of Korea

The Hanbok in South Korea is the traditional Korean dress. It is characterized by bright colors and simple lines without pockets. Although the term literally means ‘Korean clothing’, hanbok usually refers specifically to clothing of the Joseon period, and is worn as semi-formal or formal wear during festivals and celebrations.

I. Comprehension Questions

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| What does the term “hanbok” mean? |
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| When do people wear a hanbok? |
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II. Let’s Make a Question: Write a Bronze, Silver, or Gold question about the reading.

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III. Let’s Write: How does this article relate to you? Compare your culture to the one you read about above.

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The Kimono of Japan

The word ‘kimono’ means ‘a thing to wear’ and has come to mean the traditional full-length robes worn in Japan. The kimono is worn for important festivals and formal events. We can see people wearing kimonos for weddings, graduations and coming of age day, or *seijin no hi*. Wearing a Kimono has come to represent politeness and good manners.

It’s said that the first example of the kimono was the kantoi, a one-piece dress without sleeves, which was worn as far back as the 3rd century. Traditionally kimonos are sewn by hand.

I. Comprehension Questions

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| When do people wear a kimono? |
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| How are kimonos made? |
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II. Let’s Make a Question: Write a Bronze, Silver, or Gold question about the reading.

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III. Let’s Write: How does this article relate to you? Compare your culture to the one you read about above.

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Scottish Kilts

Scottish kilts are known as “The National Dress of Scotland” and are a well-known style of clothing throughout the world. Kilts have deep cultural and historical roots in the country of Scotland. Scottish kilts were created in the 16th century as a uniform for soldiers. The modern kilt of today did not develop until the late 17th or early 18th century. Modern kilts look like skirts made for men. Since the 19th century, Scottish kilts have been worn mostly for special occasions such as weddings, holiday celebrations, and sporting events.

I. Comprehension Questions

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| When were kilts first made? |
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| What do modern kilts look like? |
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II. Let’s Make a Question: Write a Bronze, Silver, or Gold question about the reading.

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III. Let’s Write: How does this article relate to you? Compare your culture to the one you read about above.

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Dinner in Jamaica

The food in Jamaica mixes flavors from Spain, the UK, Africa, India and China. Rice is a key food in Jamaica, and is often served with peas. Ackee (a Jamaican fruit) and saltfish is also a popular meal – both for dinner and breakfast – and is eaten with rice and peas, bread, dumplings, fried plantain or boiled green bananas. Meats – the most popular being pork and chicken – are often seasoned with sweet-and-spicy jerk spices.

I. Comprehension Questions

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| What countries does Jamaican food’s flavor come from? |
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| Which meat is the most popular in Jamaica? |
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II. Let’s Make a Question: Write a Bronze, Silver, or Gold question about the reading.

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III. Let’s Write: How does this article relate to you? Compare your culture to the one you read about above.

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Dinner in India

It is believed that between 20 percent and 40 percent of India’s population are vegetarian – a number that is difficult to know because Indian Hindus do not consider people who eat eggs to be vegetarian. Therefore, Indian dinners can consist of rice, roti (Indian bread) or naan served with lentils or meat and cooked vegetables. But an average dinner in India will depend on the countless local differences.

I. Comprehension Questions

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| How many people in India are vegetarian? |
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| What different foods can a normal Indian dinner have? |
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II. Let’s Make a Question: Write a Bronze, Silver, or Gold question about the reading.

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III. Let’s Write: How does this article relate to you? Compare your culture to the one you read about above.

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The Korean Wave

The Korean Wave is the increase in global popularity of South Korean culture since the 1990s. The Korean Wave started by the spread of K-dramas and K-pop across East, South and Southeast Asia. Thanks to the popularity of K-Pop videos on YouTube, the Korean Wave has become a global event. K-Pop has become more popular in the US and elsewhere, especially after Psy's video for "Gangnam Style" went viral in 2012-2013 and was the first YouTube video to reach over a billion views. In 2012, the Korean Wave was officially mentioned by US President Barack Obama. The Korean Wave in Japan has led to discussion and cultural exchange between the two countries.

I. Comprehension Questions

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| How did the Korean Wave start? |
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| What video was the first to get 1 billion views on YouTube? |
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II. Let’s Make a Question: Write a Bronze, Silver, or Gold question about the reading.

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III. Let’s Write: How does this article relate to you? Compare your culture to the one you read about above.

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Siesta in Spain

Traditionally, Spanish people have a two- to three-hour lunch break from work or school in order to enjoy lunch. They also take a short nap, called siesta. The siesta is a tradition that goes back centuries, from the days when most people worked on a farm and air conditioning did not exist. Everyone in Spain enjoyed this afternoon break, from school kids to shop workers and government officials.

Most people still enjoy a break and large meal, but life in Spain is changing. In larger cities like Madrid and Barcelona, many people spend over an hour going to and from work, making it impossible to go home for a siesta. Because of this, Spanish government employees in Madrid now work a standard eight-hour day with a one-hour lunch break.

I. Comprehension Questions

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| How long is a lunch break in Spain? |
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| Who does not take a siesta in Spain these days? |
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II. Let’s Make a Question: Write a Bronze, Silver, or Gold question about the reading.

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III. Let’s Write: How does this article relate to you? Compare your culture to the one you read about above.

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Bullfighting

Bullfighting has been called Spain's favorite sport. But to call it this is wrong for two reasons: first, soccer (called football in Spain) is the most popular sport; and second, bullfighting cannot really be called a sport. It should be called a performance, like a ballet. However, this ballet is dangerous, because if the bullfighter makes a mistake, he is likely to be injured or killed.

Bullfighting is one of the few ways a poor boy can become rich and famous in Spain and Latin America. But for every successful bullfighter, there are hundreds who have failed. Many do not have the necessary grace and skill. Some are hurt by the bulls, and some are killed.

I. Comprehension Questions

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| What sport is the most popular in Spain? |
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| What can happen if a bullfighter makes a mistake? |
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II. Let’s Make a Question: Write a Bronze, Silver, or Gold question about the reading.

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III. Let’s Write: How does this article relate to you? Compare your culture to the one you read about above.

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Islam Today

The Muslim countries of the world today have a variety of governments, including kingdoms, republics, democracies, and dictatorships. In some of these countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, traditional Islamic rules and customs are strictly enforced by the government. In other countries, such as Turkey and Albania, there is a separation between religion and government.

Muslim countries have other differences, too. In some, women cannot vote. But in Pakistan, the country with the second largest Muslim population, a woman was elected to be the prime minister, the most powerful position in the country. Some Muslim countries have great wealth, such as those around the Persian Gulf that are rich with oil. But others are very poor. Although the Muslims of today have differences that divide them, they also have a common heritage and a strong bond in their religion.

I. Comprehension Questions

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| Which Muslim country has a female prime minister? |
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| Where are the rich Muslim counties? |
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II. Let’s Make a Question: Write a Bronze, Silver, or Gold question about the reading.

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III. Let’s Write: How does this article relate to you? Compare your culture to the one you read about above.

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What is Culture?

Our culture is the system we use to build our identity. All living creatures are part of a culture. Even animals have a culture! So what is culture? It’s the way we behave in a group. It begins with each individual family. Within our families we do things to build relationships with each other. This can include routines for doing things. It also includes traditions. Traditions are activities that are repeated on a regular basis.

Culture is not limited to individual family groups. The real strength of culture is in larger community groups. These larger groups are called societies. Every society makes rules for itself.

It decides how people should act in different situations. Some of these rules are written down. Some are just things that are automatically expected of all members of that society. Often, cultures can be identified by what the people believe. Cultures are also known by what they choose to include in their art. Sometimes a society forms around people who speak the same language. Cultures may also be known for their customs, including the foods they make and the things they do.

Our cultures help us understand who we are and what we believe. There are very strong emotions connecting us to our own society. Two different cultures may disagree on something, especially if they both feel strongly about it. When that happens, war is a common result.

People are learning better ways to communicate with each other. The more we learn, the more we appreciate the differences in cultures.

Let’s Write: What is your culture? Do you belong to more than one culture? What are they?

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II. Let’s Write: What makes you Japanese? In other words, how do you define your culture?

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Glossary

Here, write the new words that you find while reading. Record the word in English and write the meaning in Japanese.

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References:

“Chinese New Year” adapted from: https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collections/teaching-content/chinese-new-year/

“The Sari of India”, “The Hanbok of Korea” and “The Kimono of Japan” adapted from: https://artsandculture.google.com/theme/-gLSnpTzzdkwJw

“Scottish Kits” adapted from: https://www.authenticireland.com/scottish-kilts/

“Dinner in Jamaica” and “Dinner in India” adapted from: https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/what-people-eat-for-dinner-around-the-world-a6732036.html

“The Korean Wave” adapted from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean\_Wave

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