

Hoops and Drums

Powwows and a prize basketball team are traditions at Wind River Reservation.

EPISODE 117
Wind River Reservation, Wyoming

TOPICS/THEMES
Cultural traditions
Sports, music, and dance

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE
Discussing cultural traditions
What's this? What is/are...?
What does...mean?
What does (an elder) do?
(Tradition) is something that...
What do you call this? It's called...

CONTENT LANGUAGE
Aspects of culture: tradition, culture, elder, generation, tribe
Sports: basketball, soccer, team, tournament, practice, trophy, prize

RECOMMENDED BOOKS
Hoops by Robert Burleigh;
Powwow by George Ancona

Introduce

Buster's Map. Locate Wyoming and Wind River Reservation, where Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho people live.

Chant the Song. Post the lyrics and chant the open song. Clap the beat and make up gestures or a dance. Have children identify unfamiliar words. Discuss their meaning.

View and View Again

Buster's Questions. In Culture Class, Buster asks Owen and Mr. Starweed lots of questions. At Stephan's house, he asks Stephan questions. Write these questions on chart paper and discuss. Have students listen for their assigned question and the answer.

- Owen, if you're the basketball coach, then who's the culture coach? (to Mr. Starweed) Do you mind if I ask you how old you are?
- (to Mr. Starweed) What does an elder actually do?
- (to Stephan) How long have you been dancing?
- (to Stephan) What's your favorite dance?
- (to Stephan) What's the biggest prize you've ever won for dancing at a powwow?

Compare Cultures. (See activity tips, page 7.) Ask: What do you know about Stephan and his family? The languages he speaks? The clothes he wears? His school? The things he likes to do? Have children draw comparisons to their own experiences.

Extend and Make Connections

Traditions. Ask students, What are some traditions your family has? What are some things that your parents or grandparents enjoyed as kids that you enjoy too? Does your family own any objects that have been handed down through generations?



Good Ol' Tyme

In Kentucky, Buster discovers "living history" he can dance to.

EPISODE 118
Whitesburg, Kentucky

TOPICS/THEMES
Music and dance
Cultural traditions

FUNCTIONAL LANGUAGE
Discussing cultural traditions
Where does the square dance come from?
It's passed down from generation to generation.

Giving commands
Walk forward and back. Clap your hands. Right hand swing.

CONTENT LANGUAGE
History: history, historical, famous, museum, statue, living history

RECOMMENDED BOOKS
Let's Dance! by George Ancona;
When Uncle Took the Fiddle by Libba M. Gray

Introduce

Chant the Song. Write, chant, and discuss these lyrics. Add gestures to go with the words.
*Some folks play the fiddle / And some dance here on the ground.
They call the dance a square dance / Even though it sure looks round.*

View and View Again

Square Dance History. Listen for Buster's question: *Where does the square dance come from?* Pause to discuss Randy's answer.

Join the Dance! When Buster calls the square dance, pause to let students repeat what is said. Then form a circle, replay the scene, and dance along!

Buster's Questions. (See activity tips, page 7.) Listen for questions and answers in the scene where Rossi, sitting on the bed, talks about "old timey" music. *Where do "old timey" songs come from? How did you get interested in fiddling anyway?* Write the following sentences on the board. Practice saying them, copying Rossi's inflection: *The songs get passed down from generation to generation. If nobody carries it on, it's going to be forgotten, and I don't want that to happen.*

Extend and Make Connections

Puppet Play. Attach pictures of Buster and Binky (see page 35) to pencils. Have students reenact the conversations between the friends.

From Another Generation. Have students draw and write about their own "living history," something that has been passed down to them by an older relative or friend.

Guest Speaker. Invite parents or community members to visit the class and share music, dances, games, or stories from their cultural traditions.

