



7

RACIAL HARMONY DAY

KNOW ABOUT CUSTOMS AND CULTURES OF YOUR FRIENDS

Main Value: Spirit of oneness

Sub-value: Different religions and their features

Value Description: Value Description: The purpose of the value, Spirit of oneness, is to remove differences, creed, region, religion, gender, etc, that lead to discrimination, disharmony and intolerance. It aims to bring all people under the common umbrella of humanity. It aims to promote 'One World One Family'.

There are many cultural beliefs, faiths in the world and each has its own features and customs. It is important that children are aware of customs other than their own, while also recognizing the commonalities amongst them. This increases acceptance and promotes unity.

Number of Sessions: 2

Learning Objective: To enable students to be aware that different countries have different foods, beliefs and customs and to share this knowledge will increase our understanding and acceptance of each other.



Teacher's Notes

Ask the children:

- What countries are your families from?
- What faith do they follow?
- What foods do you eat at home?



Racial Harmony Day Picnic

We celebrate Racial Harmony Day so we can learn about and appreciate the unique backgrounds of our friends.

On July 21st, Lakeside Primary School held a picnic for Racial Harmony Day. They celebrate this important day every year. Everyone brought a dish that represented their family's heritage to share with the class.

Teacher's Notes:

Ask the children:

- What is the name of the Primary School?
- What day was celebrated there every year?
- What did they bring to share?



Mei Ling brought a delicious plate of her Ah Ma's special kueh dadar from her Peranakan heritage. The sweet coconut filling wrapped in the soft green crepe was a hit, and everyone enjoyed hearing Mei Ling explain how her Ah Ma still makes them the traditional way.



Teacher's Notes

Ask the children:

- a. Have you ever tried kueh dadar before? What did you think of it?
- b. Do you know anyone who is Peranakan, like Mei Ling's Ah Ma?



Devi brought a flavourful tray of her mother's vadai with a side of mint chutney. The savoury lentil fritters were so tasty, and the children listened intently as Devi shared stories about visiting her relatives in India during the school holidays.

Teacher's Notes

Ask the children:

- a. Have you ever eaten a crunchy little snack like Devi's vadai? Was it spicy or mild?
- b. Do you know anyone who has family living in another country far away?
- c. Can you think of another yummy snack that your family likes to eat together?



Arifah brought Chendol - cold, sweet dessert made of shaved ice soaked in a rich mix of gula melaka (palm sugar syrup), coconut milk, and green rice flour jelly., and she proudly told her friends about how her family enjoys this sweet dessert during special occasions and gatherings.

Teacher's Notes

Ask the children:

- Do you know any other foods Malays eat?
- Do you know what faith is followed by Malays mainly?
- What are some Malay traditions or festivals that Singapore celebrates?



Li Wei proudly presented a platter of his grandmother's homemade nian gao. These sweet and sticky glutinous rice cakes, traditionally enjoyed during Chinese New Year, were a special treat. Li Wei explained the significance of nian gao and how it symbolizes progress and prosperity.

Teacher's Notes

Ask the children:

- Who has tasted nian gao before?
- What are some other favorite Singaporean sweet desserts that we like to eat?
- What are some languages that we speak in Singapore?
- Why do we celebrate Racial Harmony Day?
- What makes Singapore so special to you?



All the children gathered around, eager to taste each other's contributions and listen to the stories behind the dishes. They learned about different culinary traditions and the unique histories that shaped their friends' families. They discovered how food, like sharing stories, could build bridges and create a sense of belonging. It was clear that understanding and appreciating each other's backgrounds made everyone feel happy and connected, just like one big family.

Teacher's Notes

Ask the children:

- a. What makes Singapore so special to you?
- b. Who enjoys eating different food from different cultures?
- c. How does it feel when we all share out food and stories of our cultures and family?

Draw a line connecting the people to their food. First one is already done to help you.

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

The image shows a matching exercise. At the top, four children are shown in separate panels, labeled (a) through (d). Below them are four food items, labeled (1) through (4). A blue arrow points from child (a) to food (2).

(1) (2) (3) (4)

Answers at the end of the book

Activities after storytelling

1. Group activities

Divide the children into groups and encourage them to do the following activities. The activities can be rotated across the groups to identify how each child reacts to the learning and work out the best approach for each child.

- a. Draw/colour pictures of food from different country and country flags.

2. Whole class activity

Encourage children to retell how they celebrate festivals of different cultures in their homes.

3. Think Tank

- a. Discuss with children their visits to countries.
- b. How we can join together and celebrate the different festivals of different backgrounds?



Parents/family members/guardians can discuss with children the special festivals and customs of different faiths and talk about the similarities. It could be as simple as the fact that people of different countries and faiths make sweets on festival days.