



Making and flying kites were some of the activities of an artist residency held at Wray Schools. Photo by Bea Roeder.

Look for these icons for resources accessible on this website



Audio



Video



Lesson Plan

Folklore Bingo

- Description:** Use of a familiar game that can be played in the classroom to introduce students to folklore and to each other!
- Grades:** 4 - 12
- Author:** Bea Roeder
- Materials Included:** Folklore Bingo Cards (2 in English, 1 in Spanish). *"Just Plain Art"* video (accessible on this site. Also available on VHS from the Colorado Council on the Arts.)
- Materials Needed:** Prizes. Globe. Photos to use as clues.
- Standards:** This activity can be used to address these Colorado Model Content Standards:
- Dance 4, 5
 - Foreign Language 2
 - Geography 1
 - Music 5
 - Reading and Writing 1, 2, 4, 5
 - Visual Arts 4

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Folklore Bingo Card (in English)

Folklore Bingo Card (in Spanish)

Folk Art & Culture Bingo Card (in English)

Activity: Playing Folklore Bingo

Goal:

To introduce children to folklore and to each other.

Objectives:

- Students will gain a general idea of what folklore is.
- Students will see that:
 - A. Folklore is part of their *Everyday Experience* (outside school as well as in).
 - B. Folklore can have many *Variations*, but that we all value what is familiar to us and may argue that other people's versions are "wrong" and ours are "right."
 - C. Folklore *Passes* from one person to another *Informally* and usually in *Small Groups*.
 - D. Folklore *Shapes Our Expectations* of how people should interact socially.

Supplies:

- A copy of "Folklore Bingo" for every student
- A prize for everyone – candy, toys. An ethnic or traditional "folk" treat is ideal.
- A globe, so students can see where Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas are. (Avoid wall maps for this, because they distort relationships between continents).
- Optional: "Clue" photos showing some traditions from different parts of the world. Travel ads and magazines are good sources. For example: dancers

or musicians from each continent, such as African drummers, American Indians at a powwow, Mexican folklórico dance, German Oktoberfest or Irish stepdancers, an Indonesian Gamelan, and a Chinese dragon dance.



- "*Just Plain Art*" video is directly accessible on this website, available on your computer now.

It includes examples of seven different traditions (dance, sand painting, weaving, horsehair hitching, embroidery, quilting, and music) from six different ethnic traditions.

Instructions for Playing the Game



1. Play "*Just Plain Art*" video first to introduce students to a few Coloradoan traditions.
2. As you pass out copies of Folklore Bingo, explain that this is a game about folklore and folk life: the traditional things we learn outside of school, from our families and friends, without even realizing we're learning anything! Ask students what traditions they just saw in the video and point out where one or two might fit in the Bingo sheet.
3. Give students time to look for, and ask about, words they don't understand.
4. Tell students they can make "Bingo" by giving examples of five kinds of folklore in a straight row *Across, Down, or Diagonally* (from corner to corner). You can have them work individually or in pairs, or start alone, then turn to classmates for help with remaining blanks.

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5. Give your class 10 or 15 minutes to work. When a student or group claims *Bingo*, check the answers; ask for an explanation of any that seem questionable. Ask for a second *Bingo* using a different row or column. As you give out prizes, elicit answers to the remaining squares. Who still has a square to fill to get bingo? Who can help with an example of that tradition?

6. *This is the Fun Part!* Ask each student to give an example of a tradition and explain who he or she learned it from and where. Start a list on the board that will become a list of folk groups. There will be people like “uncle” and “best friend” and places like “home,” “church,” and various peer groups or places. Group all family members together as “family.”

7. Listen for variations. When one child disputes another’s version of a remedy or tradition, point out that folklore exists in many variations. Each of us learns the way our friends or family do things. Other people may learn a different version. Give examples of greeting traditions: Asian bows, Latino abrazos, business men’s firm handshake, Chicano or African American complex handshake, Native American light touch of hands. Children from each of those traditions think their way is right, and wonder why other people do it differently!

8. Finally, when the class grows tired of examples, ask: What does each row have in common? The field of folklore is often divided into folklore and folklife, as are these rows.



Close-ups of kites made during an artist residency held at Wray Schools. Photo by Bea Roeder.

Helpful Hints:

Folk Groups: We each belong to many folk groups, such as: family, circle of friends, neighborhood, church or temple, school mates or fellow workers, age group, gender, ethnic group, region, maybe sports team, music group or club. We have different ways of relating to people in each of these folk groups. We learn different kinds of folklore in different groups. Think, for example, about differences in jokes told by different age groups or by the same person in different social situations (in school, after school, at home, in church, among close friends of the same gender vs. in a mixed group).

The topics raised, the video, and the game (two versions in English and one in Spanish) can serve as themes for class discussions or for individual student speaking or writing assignments.

- The first three rows contain examples of folklore: traditional things people say. You may find some overlap between categories, especially with rhymes, as many proverbs, weather sayings, and charms rhyme. (Why? Rhymes help us remember things: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away.") There are jump rope rhymes, baby games ("Pat a cake, pat a cake, baker's man, bake me a cake as fast as you can..."), autograph rhymes ("Roses are red, violets are blue..."), greetings ("See ya later, alligator." "On the Nile, crocodile."), and many more.

- The second row contains what used to be termed "beliefs and superstitions." As one folklorist joked, "Beliefs are what I think is true. Superstitions are what other people believe is true." Beliefs are expressed orally, so they are considered folklore, "traditional things people say." However, they

may also be expressed through gestures, and if they are truly believed, they are also acted on, so they may also reflect certain customs. If you believe mint tea cures stomach upsets, you drink it when your stomach is upset. Some beliefs have symbolic value: we cross our fingers to indicate to others that we are hoping for good luck. Some people carry a "lucky" rabbit's foot or wear certain clothing or jewelry they consider lucky to assure themselves that all will go well on high-stress occasions (like test days). Why do we "knock on wood"?

- The third row contains examples of folk speech, which is one area of folklore. Jargon can have several meanings, but for purposes of this game it refers to the technical terminology or characteristic idiom of a special activity or group, especially occupational groups. The medical "Code Blue" is familiar to most students through television programs, as is computer jargon. Slang includes much non-standard English; teenagers will have no difficulty finding examples (mine are always like, outdated, dude).

- The fourth row contains customs: traditional things people do.

- The fifth row contains folk arts and crafts: traditional things people make. Folk arts are examples of material culture, along with traditional tools, styles of barns and other buildings, foodways, etc. Together, customs (fourth row) and material culture comprise folklife.

- For those of you who have Spanish-speaking students, a Spanish version of bingo is included.

Examples of A Few Possible Answers

Oral Traditions

Parody	We three kings of Orient are / smoking on a rubber cigar It blows up and / We two kings of Orient are...
Proverb	An apple a day keeps the doctor away
Proverbial comparison	As skinny as a rail; as white as snow
Rhyme	Patty cake, patty cake, baker's man Bake me a cake as fast as you can... Cinderella, dressed in yella...
Riddle	What's black and white and red all over?

Folk Speech

Nickname	"Dave the Axe" "Skinny"
Greeting	"Howdy" (What occupational group does this greeting bring to mind?)
Regional expression	"Semi-native" Slicker than a new- born calf
Jargon	Surfing the internet, download files, snail mail
Slang	Fresh, awesome, cool, hot (all to mean same thing)
Sports lingo	He flyed out; ump
Beliefs	It's bad luck to walk under a ladder
Remedy	Chicken soup (what for?); garlic as antibiotic or to keep witches away
Weather saying	Red sky in morning, sailors take warning, Red sky at night, sailors' delight
Good luck	4-leaf clover
Bad omen	When a black cat crosses your path from left to right

Customs

Family holiday	Turkey with all the trimmings for Thanksgiving (but trimmings vary!)
Wedding	Something white and something blue, Something old and something new
School	Homecoming; ghost in the theater; traditional activities for good luck in tests; sports
Toast	Here's to ya! Salud! Salud, amor y pesetas, y tiempo para gozarlas
Coloradoan	Climbing Fourteeners, Pikes Peak Hill Climb or Marathon burro races, owning SUV
American	Fourth of July fireworks and watermelon; celebrating Thanksgiving; Juneteenth



Eating traditional foods at a Filipino banquet was a popular activity during an artist residency held at Wray Schools. Photo by Bea Roeder.

Arts and Crafts Typical of Particular Regions of the World

African	Adinkra, talking drums, complex rhythms, thumb piano, masks, improvisational dance
American-Indian	Bead and quillwork on buckskin, powwow dancing & costumes, Native drum & flute
Asian	Japanese origami and other paper arts, Hmong embroidery, Chinese lion dance, pagodas
European	Scandinavian rosemaling, Ukrainian pysanky, regional iron, glass, and needlework
Latino	Mariachi, rumba, tango, certain toys, gourd and shell instruments; serapes and ponchos
Anglo-American	Quilting, whittling, square dancing, clogging, cowboy poetry, teddy bears

Note: Every culture has crafts, music, and dance, so answers here must specify what is unique about the art of a particular region.

These are a few examples.

TIES THAT BIND

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Folklore Bingo

1. Think of examples of as many of these kinds of folklore as you can. Write one example for each Row across and one example for each COLUMN down (use back of paper as needed).

2. Circulate around the room, asking other people for a sample of their folklore to fill in your gaps. Write the person's name in the box that corresponds to the lore they offered you.

3. You win when you get BINGO: every box in a row across, a column down, or a diagonal from corner to corner.

Folklore Bingo Card

Proverb	Riddle	Joke	Proverbial comparison (as ___ as ___)	Rhyme
Belief	Remedy	Weather saying	Good luck charm	Bad omen
Nickname	Greeting	Jargon	Slang	Sports lingo
Family holiday or custom	Wedding tradition	School tradition	Coloradoan tradition	American tradition
African art or craft	American Indian or craft	Asian art or craft	European art or craft	Latino art or craft

Folklore Bingo en español

1. Piense en el saber popular y las tradiciones de su gente y escriba un ejemplo de tantas como pueda. Escriba un ejemplo para cada fila y uno para cada columna. Si necesita más espacio, use Vd. El otro lado de este papel.

2. Si le faltan respuestas, pídale a un compañero un ejemplo apropiado. Escriba el nombre de la persona que le ayude en el cuadrado que corresponde a la respuesta que le dio a usted.

3. Cuando usted ha llenado todos los cuadrados en una fila (de lado a lado), una columna, o diagonalmente, gana!

Folklore Bingo en español

Dicho (Refran)	Adivinanza	Chiste	Comparacion (tan. . .como. . .)	Rima
Creencia	Remedio	Dicho relativo al tiempo/clima	Amuleto	Agüero
Apodo	Musica	Cuento	Pachuquismo caló o jerga	Juego de niños
Costumbre de familia	Tradicion de bodas	Tradicion religiosa	Comida tradicional	Costumbre Mexicana
Arte o artesanía Mexicana	Arte Indígena	Arte Española	Arte del Caribe	Arte artesanía Sudamericana

TIES THAT BIND

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Folk Art and Culture Bingo

1. Think of an example of each kind of folk art listed in left-hand column for as many of the continental cultures listed at top as you can. Describe or draw one example in each block, giving one or two traits that distinguish folk arts of this culture from the others.

2. If stumped, circulate around the room, asking other people for a sample of their folklore.

3. You win when you get BINGO: every box in a row across, or a diagonal from corner to corner. Hint: folk arts may be made or performed for family, ethnic, occupational, religious, social, or healing purposes or occasions.

Bingo 2

	African	American Indian	Asian	European	Latino
Art or craft using wood or leather					
Folk dance					
Folk music					
Needlework or fiber					
Custom or tradition					