



The Story of Me: My Language, Culture, and Community

A Connecticut State Department of Education Summer Learning Challenge

Being bilingual is like having a superpower! If you are already bilingual or your family speaks a language other than English that is awesome! If you don't speak another language, consider trying to learn one. This challenge encourages you to carry out activities related to language and culture and your role in your community. Happy learning!

Step One:

Essential Questions (choose one on which to focus your work from the choice board*):

- What role do I play in my community?**
- How am I influenced by culture and language?**
- How do I influence culture and language?**
- Why does bilingualism and biculturalism matter?**
- Why do culture and language matter?**
- How can I make the world a better place with language?**
- How can I be of service in my community?**

** Choose an essential question that works best for you based on your grade level and interests.*



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Step Two:

Choose and do at least one activity from EACH column below.
(For example, choose one activity from the language column, one from the culture column and one from the community column. Feel free to do more if you want!)

Language	Culture	Community
<p>Family Recipe</p> <p>Is there a special recipe that is important to your family? Take a picture or copy down the recipe. Try translating it into English or if it's in English, translate it into your family's native language. Talk to a family member about why the recipe is important. Share a photo or drawing with a bilingual caption or a bilingual narrative about its importance.</p>	<p>Research a Cultural Artifact/Symbol</p> <p>Research a cultural artifact or symbol that you would like to learn more about. Research can be done through books, and the internet, or research by talking to friends and family about an artifact/symbol. Create a narrative and/or visual/artistic representation that describes the artifact/symbol. What does it mean to you?</p>	<p>Scavenger Hunt</p> <p>What languages do I see and hear in my community?</p> <p>What are some important places in my community?</p> <p>Take pictures or make a list of different languages. Do you see bilingual signs? Mail? Posters?</p> <p>Take pictures or make a list of important places in the community. What makes them important to you?</p>
<p>Explore New Vocabulary</p> <p>What are some words that you would like to know in another language? Talk with a family member or friend about their heritage or home language, and ask the person to share 5-10 vocabulary words in the language. Practice the new words. Make a list and/or a voice memo of them and what they mean.</p>	<p>Song or Poem on Cultural Pride</p> <p>Is there a certain song or poem that symbolizes cultural pride to you? Share the song or poem and why it is a source of pride. Or if you don't have one yet, find one and explain why it expresses cultural pride.</p>	<p>Community Collage</p> <p>How can you represent your community in pictures? Use drawings, photos, pictures from the newspaper and magazines (or a combination) to create a collage of your community.</p>
<p>Family Interview</p> <p>What stories can you learn by interviewing a family member? What would you like to know? Develop a few questions and interview a family member in whichever language you would like to use. Describe what you learned and why it is important to learn about your family's stories.</p>	<p>Photo that Shows Who You Are</p> <p>Can a photograph tell a story? Find a photograph that shows who you are. It doesn't have to be of YOU — maybe it's a special place, object or an old family picture. Describe why the photograph represents you and your culture.</p>	<p>Social Justice and Service</p> <p>How can you serve your community and your neighbors? Make a plan for how you can give back to your community, and better yet, try it out! Describe the plan with words, pictures, or a video or audio recording. Describe why service matters to you.</p>

Step Three: Bring It All Together

Show what you learned about language, culture and community by creating a poster project, artistic representation or poem, story or essay. How did the essential question and activities help you learn about yourself? Your family? Your community? Show/tell about activities you did!