



# American Cultural Heritage Series

## All Grade Levels

### Purpose

To foster an understanding and an appreciation of the various cultures that make up the United States. This series offers suggested activities for exploration and education.

### Overview

The American Cultural Heritage Series will give Girl Scouts the opportunity to explore cultures different from their own. Five patches can be earned by completing a specific number of activities.

Several cultural backgrounds in this series are described below. By no means are these categories limited – other cultures can be included.

- **African Americans:** Africans born in Africa; or descendants of Africans. Racial groups can include blacks, Berbers and Arabs from North Africa and non-indigenous groups such as Asians and whites descended from Dutch, Portuguese, English and French colonists and traders.
- **Asian Americans:** refers to people who are from or descended from Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet or Viet Nam.
- **European Americans:** people from or descended from any of the six regions of the European continent; Scandinavia, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, the United Kingdom and the Baltic regions, (Includes about 45 countries).
- **Hispanic Americans:** people from or descended from Spain, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and the Spanish speaking countries of Central and South America.
- **Native Americans:** descendants of North America's first inhabitants.



### Requirements

Program patches, badges, "Try-Its" and Interest Project patches foster a deeper understanding and further exploration of the American Cultural Heritage Series.

#### Girl Scout Brownie Try-its:

"People of the World" and "Playing Around the World" Try-Its  
"People Near and Far" chapter of the Brownie Handbook.

#### Girl Scout Junior Badges:

"Between Us", "Celebrating People", "Global Awareness", "Humans and Habitats",  
and "World Neighbors".

#### Girl Scout Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Interest Project Patches:

"World of Understanding"

The American Cultural Heritage Series patches are designed so Girl Scouts at all age levels can participate. Leaders should modify the activities as appropriate.

To earn this patch, select one of the following options:

- Each girl selects an individual country/region.
- The entire troop selects one or several countries/regions to compare and contrast.
- Patrols or groups of girls select individual countries/regions to work on collaboratively.
  
- Girl Scout Daisies must complete nine activities
- Girl Scout Brownies must complete 12 activities
- Girl Scout Juniors must complete 15 activities
- Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors must complete 18 activities.

### Activities

1. Locate your country or region on a map:
  - a. What type of terrain does the country have?
  - b. What is the weather like?
  - c. What time is it in your country/region now? What time is it where you live?
2. Discover whether there are Girl Guides in the country/region. Use the Girl Scouts of the USA website to help you search: [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org). Compare their program to your Girl Scout program.
3. Find out which language(s) is spoken in your country. Then learn to speak three phrases in that language.
4. Research the country's population.
5. List at least two countries that border your country/region.
6. Find a recipe of a popular food to make and share with your friends or family.
7. Discover three historical landmarks. Learn about the history of one of the main landmarks. Does the United States have something like it?
8. Research a holiday celebration and share it with your family or troop.
9. Determine which performing and/or fine arts are part of this culture's heritage. Select from the following categories: instrumental music, vocal music, dance, theater, opera, sculpture, painting or architecture. Research the art and perform/present to your troop.
10. Explore religion in your country. Does your country have one major religion or are several religions practiced?
11. Research what type of clothing young people your age wear. Is the clothing worn in the country influenced by the weather/climate? Is your own clothing influenced by the weather?
12. Find out what sports are played in this country/region.



13. Study the type of government your country/region follows. Is it the same or different from the United States' government? How does their government affect their everyday lives?
14. Determine if this country's school system is similar to the one you attend. Can you find out how long children are required to attend school?
15. Make a replica of their flag. Be able to describe the meaning of the colors and symbols on the flag.
16. Research the country's monetary system. What are the names of their monetary denominations? What does the money look like? How does the value compare to United States currency? How much does it cost to buy a loaf of bread in this country? What does a loaf of bread cost in your local grocery store?
17. Explore the methods of communication this country/region utilizes. Television? Radio? Telephones? Cell phones? Internet computers?
18. Name three famous people who come from this country or who have ancestors from this country. If they are famous in the United States, are they also famous in the country of their birth? If they are a famous person from history, how did they help their country?
19. Research the kind of transportation young people in this country use. Do they get rides in their parents' cars? Do they take buses? Can they walk everywhere they need to go? Do girls have access to public transportation?
20. Name the standard of measure this country uses. Is it metric (centimeter, kilometer, liter) or English (mile, inch, yard)?
21. Find out how much it costs to mail a letter from the United States to this country.
22. Plan a trip to this country/region. What kind of accommodations would you expect? How long would you like to stay? What would you like to see and do?
23. Invite someone from this country or someone who has traveled to this country, to speak to your troop OR attend a festival which highlights your country/region.

When you have completed the requirements, you can purchase the patch at any of our six regional offices, [www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org](http://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org) or our online shop, [www.shopgirlscouts.com](http://www.shopgirlscouts.com) and go to "Uniquely Ours".