



# Third Grade

## ELA

## GRADE 3 ELA ACTIVITY 1 – CULTURES

A video lesson of a Knox County 3rd grade teacher that accompanies this text is available on KCS YouTube Channel and KCS TV.



In this text, your child will be looking for specific clues about:

**TOPIC:** Cultures

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** How do all cultures have unique characteristics?

**SENTENCE COMPOSITION:** Combining Sentences

- Instead of having only simple sentences in our writing, we can combine some simple sentences to create a more interesting sentence. When we join sentences, we use words called conjunctions. Some common conjunctions are for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so.
- Example:

Joe forgot his lunch.  
He had to buy a lunch.      **→**      Joe forgot his lunch, **so**  
he had to buy a lunch.

- Look for ways in your own writing to combine some sentences to add variety.

**BUILDING BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE:**

- Ask your child what culture means.
- Tell them as they read, they'll be looking closely at how clothing plays a role in cultures. Students will learn that culture is our way of life. Culture might involve the food we eat, clothing we wear, traditions we have and things we celebrate.

**READING THE TEXT:** *Clothes, Bringing Cultures Together*

- You may choose to take turns reading the text with your child, read the text at the same time, or have your child read independently.

**ASK QUESTIONS:**

- What text features give you information about the text? Look for things like maps, photographs, headings and captions.
- What type of clothing is important to South American culture? Why?
- Where else has this type of clothing become popular? Why?

**MAKE YOUR CASE:**

- Writing Task: Do you think ponchos are an important part of South American culture?
  - o Your child should write a paragraph stating their opinion, providing text evidence with an explanation, and restating their opinion.
  - o Take a look at the exemplar below. Do you have all of the components in your paragraph? If not, go back in to add anything that's missing.
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**EXEMPLAR:**

*Prompt: Do you think ponchos are an important part of South American culture?*

Ponchos are an important part of South American Culture. According to the text, ponchos were created in South America thousands of years ago to keep people warm when the weather was cold. This shows that ponchos are an important part of South American culture because staying warm in cold temperatures keeps people safe and comfortable. In the text, I also learned that many South Americans still wear ponchos today. Ponchos are important to this culture because even though they were first made thousands of years ago, they are still just as popular now. Last, these articles of clothing were usually decorated with flowers, birds, and people. This means that ponchos were a way for South Americans to express themselves and their culture by decorating them in this way. Clothing is an important characteristic in most cultures, and this is true for the poncho in South American culture.

<b>Opinion</b>	Ponchos are an important part of South American Culture.
<b>Text Evidence 1</b>	Ponchos were created in South America thousands of years ago to keep people warm when the weather was cold.
<b>Explanation 1</b>	Staying warm in cold temperatures keeps people safe and comfortable.
<b>Text Evidence 2</b>	Many South Americans still wear ponchos today.
<b>Explanation 2</b>	Even though they were first made thousands of years ago, they are still just as popular now.
<b>Text Evidence 3</b>	These ponchos were usually decorated with flowers, birds, and people.
<b>Explanation 3</b>	Ponchos were a way for South Americans to express themselves and their culture by decorating their ponchos in this way.
<b>Opinion (restated)</b>	Clothing is an important characteristic in most cultures, and this is true for the poncho in South American culture.

# Clothes

## Bringing Cultures Together

by Elizabeth Massie

Next time you walk through town, look at the clothes people are wearing. You might see ponchos, blue jeans, and sneakers. You might see moccasins (MOK-uh-sunz), t-shirts, and berets (bur-AYZ). Many of the clothes we wear today are new designs. However, some were first made in other countries or by other cultures long ago. They have become part of modern American fashion.



# South American Ponchos

Thousands of years ago, people of South America made and wore ponchos. A poncho is a square cloak. It has a hole in the middle for the wearer's head.

South American ponchos were woven out of wool. The wool came from llamas and other pack animals. The ponchos were often decorated with flowers, birds, and people. Ponchos kept the wearers warm in cold weather.

Ponchos are still part of everyday wear in many South American countries. The style is much the same as it was long ago.

During the 20th century, people in the United States began to wear ponchos. Americans liked their style and warmth. Ponchos were also adapted into rain gear. Rain ponchos are made of waterproof material. They often have hoods.



Past

The poncho above was made in South America more than two thousand years ago. You might see the ponchos below on our streets today.

Present

