

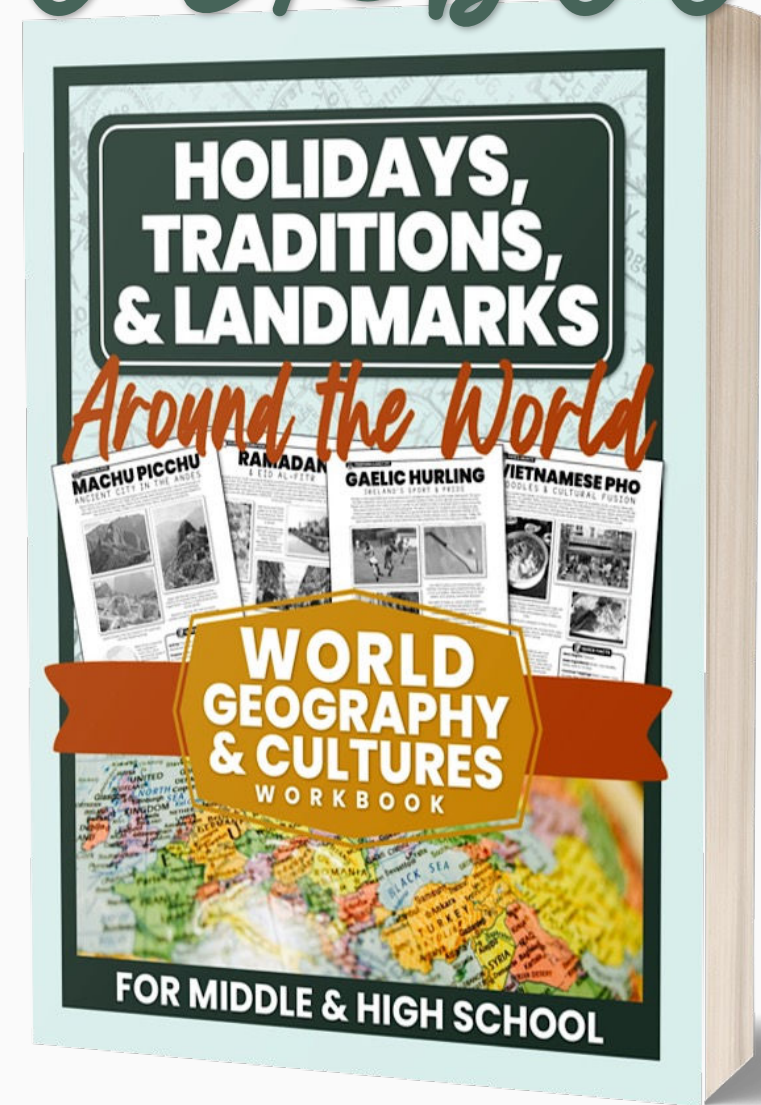
WORLD CULTURE

workbook

Explore cultures around the world while building geography, map-reading, and critical thinking skills.

This Workbook Includes:

- **36 High Interest Cultural Topics** from around the world
- **Engaging 2-Page Spreads** for each cultural topic
- **Photos, Maps, Readings, & Critical Thinking Questions** for deeper learning
- **Mapping Activities, Review Games, & Extension Ideas** for extra support



CULTURE & TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

LANDMARKS & SITES

MACHU PICCHU

ANCIENT CITY IN THE ANDES

Machu Picchu is one of the most famous archaeological sites in the world, located high in the Andes Mountains of Peru. Built by the Inca civilization in the 1400s, the site includes stone temples, homes, terraces, and pathways. Although it was abandoned centuries ago, Machu Picchu remains a powerful example of how people adapted to their environment. Today, it helps us understand Incan culture, engineering, and daily life.




(upper left) The site is surrounded on three sides by the Urubamba River, steep peaks, and rugged terrain, making it a highly protected and remote plateau.

(above) A view from 1911 with structures partially covered by vegetation, before the site was cleared.

(above) Temple of the Sun (Torreón) in the upper town, with solar-aligned openings.

Machu Picchu is about 50 miles northwest of Cusco, Peru, which was once the capital of the Inca Empire.

The site is on the crest of the mountain of the same name and is located almost 8,000 feet above sea level, situated in the Andes Mountains.

QUICK FACTS

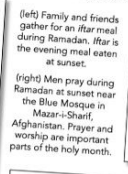
- Built By:** The Incan civilization (1400s), abandoned in the mid-1500s
- Purpose:** Likely a royal estate, religious site, or important city; exact purpose is debated
- Brought to Global Attention:** Early 1900s
- Ways to Get There:** By train, bus, or hiking
- Elevation:** 7,972 feet (2,430 meters)
- Annual Visitors:** About 1.5 million

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HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS

RAMADAN & EID AL-FITR

Ramadan is a holy month observed by Muslims around the world that focuses on fasting, prayer, and giving others. From dawn to sunset, many Muslims avoid eating and drinking as a way to practice self-discipline and strengthen their faith. Families and communities gather in the evenings for meals called *iftar*. Mosques often hold special evening prayers, and many cities decorate streets and markets during Ramadan. Ramadan ends with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, a holiday marked by prayers, meals, charity, and family and friends.

(left) Family and friends gather for an *iftar* meal during Ramadan. *Iftar* is the evening meal eaten at sunset.

(right) Men pray during Ramadan at sunset near the Blue Mosque in Istanbul. Prayer and worship are important parts of the holy month.



Many cities and a street scene.

QUICK FACTS

- Observed By:** Muslims worldwide
- Based On:** The Islamic lunar calendar, rotating through every season on a 33-year cycle
- Main Traditions:** Fasting between dawn and sunset, prayer, charity, reading the Quran, *iftar* meals
- Core Themes:** Reflection, self-discipline, generosity, faith
- Ends With:** Eid al-Fitr celebration

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TRADITIONS & DAILY LIFE

GAELIC HURLING

IRELAND'S SPORT & PRIDE

Hurling is a fast-paced field sport from Ireland and is considered one of the world's oldest field sports. The sport has been played for centuries and remains an important symbol of Irish cultural identity and community pride. Players use a wooden stick called a *hurley* (or *camán* in Irish Gaelic) to strike a small ball called a *sliotar* across the field, pass to teammates, or score points and goals. The sport is known for its speed, skill, and physical play. Hurling is organized by local community clubs and governed by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), which also promotes Irish cultural traditions. Women and girls play a closely related version called *camogie*. Today, the sport remains especially popular across Ireland and is also played by Irish communities around the world.




(top left) A hurling club championship match between the Killyon and Longwood teams during a local competition. Matches are known for their speed, quick passing, and skilled stickwork.

(top right) A hurley, or *camán*, beside a leather-covered cork hurling ball called a *sliotar*. Traditional hurleys are carved from local ash wood and remain important symbols of the sport.



(left) U.S. President Barack Obama accepting a hurley as a gift from Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny in 2011. The sport is widely recognized as a central part of Irish heritage and national pride.



Ireland is an island nation in northwestern Europe where hurling developed as part of Gaelic culture and community life.

Today, the sport remains especially popular in many Irish counties and is also played by Irish communities around the world.

QUICK FACTS

- Country:** Ireland
- Origins:** Ancient Gaelic Ireland
- Main Equipment:** Hurley (*camán*) stick and sliotar ball
- Governing Organization:** Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)
- Related Sport:** Camogie (women's version of the sport)
- Most Popular In:** Kilkenny, Cork, Tipperary, and Galway

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FOOD & OBJECTS

VIETNAMESE PHO

NOODLES & CULTURAL FUSION

Pho is a noodle soup closely connected to Vietnam and is often eaten for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Most pho is made with rice noodles, herbs, and sliced beef or chicken. Pho developed in northern Vietnam during the late 19th and early 1900s, influenced by Vietnamese, Chinese, and French cooking traditions. Street vendors helped popularize pho throughout Vietnam, and later, Vietnamese migration introduced the dish internationally. Today, pho restaurants can be found around the world and remain an important icon of Vietnamese cuisine.




Pho is a Vietnamese noodle soup usually made with rice noodles, herbs, and sliced beef or chicken. Pho restaurants and street vendors prepare pho in different ways.

Pho traditions are most closely connected to Vietnam, especially in northern cities such as Hanoi where the dish likely developed.

Today, pho is eaten throughout Vietnam and has spread internationally through migration, restaurants, and global food culture.



Common toppings for pho include limes, bean sprouts, chili peppers, onions, and herbs added to the soup before eating.

QUICK FACTS

- Main Region:** Vietnam
- Main Ingredients:** Broth, rice noodles, herbs, beef or chicken
- Common Toppings:** Basil, cilantro, bean sprouts, lime, chili peppers, onions
- Historical Influences:** Vietnamese cooking traditions, Chinese noodle traditions, and French culinary influence
- Modern Popularity:** Restaurants throughout Vietnam, North America, Europe, and Australia

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INSIDE EACH *spotlight*

LANDMARKS & SITES

EIFFEL TOWER LA DAME DE FER

The Eiffel Tower is one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world, and it is located in the heart of Paris, France. Built between 1887 and 1889 for the World's Fair, the tower was originally meant to be a temporary structure but has since become a lasting symbol of France. It's been nicknamed *La dame de fer* (French for "Iron Lady"). Today, it represents innovation, culture, and national pride, while attracting millions of visitors each year.



(above) Illustration of the tower illuminated at night during the 1889 World's Fair exposition.



(above) The tower's surrounding public green space, the Champ de Mars, is a popular spot for picnicking, strolling, and watching the tower's nightly light show.

(right) A photo taken on August 21, 1888, shows the completion of the second level.



QUICK FACTS

Built By: Engineer Gustave Eiffel and his team for the 1889 World's Fair
Purpose: Entrance arch and display of engineering; now a tourist landmark
Location: Paris, France
Height: About 1,083 feet (330 meters)
Stair Steps: 674 to the second level, visitors can only access the third level by elevator
Annual Visitors: 6–7 million



The Eiffel Tower is located in the center of Paris, the capital of France. Due to its proximity to population centers, major airports, and ease to visit, it's recognized as one of the most-visited paid monuments in the world.

Concise intro to familiarize yourself with the cultural item

Image gallery to see different important and awe-inspiring sides of the cultural item

Map, Quick Facts, Short Reading to learn the item's history, meaning, and role it plays in culture today

Comprehension & Critical Thinking Questions to apply learning across spotlights and connect to the world and self

The Eiffel Tower was constructed in 1889 as part of the Exposition Universelle, a world's fair held in Paris to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution. At the time, it was the tallest man-made structure in the world. Designed by engineer Gustave Eiffel, the tower was built using thousands of pieces of iron carefully assembled into a strong but lightweight structure.



A peek inside the small apartment Gustave Eiffel built on the third level. Today, it holds mannequins of him and his famous guests, like Thomas Edison (left).

When it was first completed, the Eiffel Tower was not universally admired. Some artists and writers in Paris criticized it, arguing that it did not fit the traditional style of the city. However, over time, public opinion changed. The tower became a symbol of modern engineering and creativity, showing what was possible with new materials and construction techniques.

Although it was originally intended to be temporary, the Eiffel Tower remained standing in part because it proved useful for scientific experiments and communication, including early radio transmissions. Its continued use helped save it from being taken down.

Today, the Eiffel Tower is one of the most visited landmarks in the world and a widely recognized symbol of France. It appears in art, films, and media and is often associated with ideas of culture, travel, and national identity. At night, the tower is illuminated with thousands of lights, further reinforcing its role as a visual and cultural icon.

Visitors to the Eiffel Tower can explore multiple levels. Elevators and stairs carry visitors up the structure, where they can look out over the city, buy souvenirs, or dine in restaurants inside the tower.

The Eiffel Tower shows how a structure can take on new meaning over time. What began as a temporary display of engineering has become a lasting symbol of a country, reflecting both technological progress and cultural pride.

Understanding the Landmark: What was the Eiffel Tower originally built for, and why was it almost taken down?

THINK & APPLY

Culture & Symbolism: How did people's opinions of the Eiffel Tower change over time, and what does this show about how culture can shift?

Change Over Time: How did new uses for the Eiffel Tower (such as communication or tourism) help it remain an important landmark for Paris?

COMPARE & CONNECT

Think of another iconic tower landmark that represents a country or city. How is it similar to the Eiffel Tower? How is it different?

YOUR THOUGHTS

Why do you think "going to the top" of a landmark is such a draw for visitors?

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