

If you only have 15 minutes ...

Define Multiculturalism

To dig deeply into the article, expand your understanding of the word *multiculturalism*. See if you can figure the word's meaning out by breaking it down into its parts. What does the prefix *multi-* mean? The root of culturalism is *cultura*, a past participle stem of *colere*, from Latin. What does *culture* mean? How does the suffix *-ism* refine the word's meaning? Based on your answers to these questions, write your own definition for *multiculturalism*.¹ Then review the definitions of the key words in the text. Add to or change your definition based on what you learn.

Go back through the article and note the words and phrases that are associated with the idea of multiculturalism. What are its characteristics, according to the article?² Then, find at least two examples of multiculturalism presented in the article. Share your examples with the class. Explain what makes each an appropriate example of the concept.

Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.L.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.

RI9-10.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).

¹ Possible answers may vary. Multi-: many; Culture: a people's way of life, including customs, beliefs, behaviors, and creations; -ism-: suffix meaning a distinctive belief or theory. Multiculturalism: a theory about many ways of life and how they coexist.

² Answers may vary. Characteristics/phrases: tolerance, unique, indivisible, diversity, coexistence, dialog, enrichment, layered, palimpsest.