

What You'll Need

- Volunteers
- Newsprint sheets
- Markers
- Masking tape
- Optional:
laminated world map

Time: 30 minutes

Questions? Comments?
Contact the Girl Scout
office nearest you.
1-800-922-2770
203-239-2922

www.gsofct.org

Valuing Differences

The United States has a long, proud history of people coming here from all over the world. It is fun to look around and see how many different nationalities, cultures and races are here together. The fact that we have different traditions and beliefs make us more interesting to be with. Wouldn't the world be boring if we were all alike!

This is a great year-round activity. It can add fun to a Service Unit event around Thinking Day and volunteers can use this activity with their girls as part of a try-it, badge or general troop/group activity.



ACTIVITY:

1. If the group is more than 10, divide into two or more groups. Give each group a page of newsprint and a marker.
2. Have each group choose a recorder.
3. Ask that each member of the group share the following information:
 - Where her/his ancestors came from
 - How many different places she/he has lived
 - Where would she/he like to visit or live?
4. Record the information on the newsprint sheet. Discuss how much of the world is represented.
5. Post newsprint on the wall. Choose one person from each group to report back. If there is a world map available, mark each area of the world that is represented.
6. Compare similarities and differences. If time permits, participants can share a story from their ancestors or discuss why they chose where they want to live or visit.

COMING TOGETHER:

People are different and because of this, everyone has something to contribute to Girl Scouting. The fact that we do have different traditions, beliefs and backgrounds makes us more interesting to be with. Adults working with girls should remember to:

- Act as a role model. Be sensitive to the ethnic, cultural, and religious differences of the girls and adults you work with.
- Encourage feelings of pride in a girl's culture, race and religion and let her share her customs, traditions, and heritage with the troop/group.
- Be firm but calm with any derogatory remarks or behaviors about another race, religion or culture. Let the girls know that you will not tolerate it.
- Have a mixture of ages, races and religions in your troop/group. If this isn't possible, ensure the girls participate in activities with troops/groups that differ from yours.
- Go beyond visible diversity; look for the differences within your own troop/group. Allow the girls to experience these differences and to value those who are not like themselves.