



American Cultures

Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet (book). No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33216. Merit Badge Workbooks and much more are below: [Online Resources](#). Send comments to the workbook developer: craig@craiglincoln.com. Requirements revised: 2006, Workbook updated: May 2009.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ **Counselor's Ph #:** _____

Choose THREE groups that have different racial, cultural, national, or ethnic backgrounds, one of which comes from your own background. Use these groups to meet requirements 1, 2, and 3.

1. Do TWO of the following, choosing a different group for each:

a. Go to a festival, celebration, or other event identified with one of the groups. Report on what you see and learn.

b. Go to a place of worship, school, or other institution identified with one of the groups. Report on what you see and learn.

c. Talk with a person from one of the groups about the heritage and traditions of the group. Report on what you learn.

d. Learn a song, dance, poem, or story that is traditional to one group, and teach it to a group of your friends. _____

e. Go to a library or museum to see a program or exhibit featuring one group's traditions. Report on what you see and learn.

2. Imagine that one of the groups had always lived alone in a city or country to which no other groups ever came. Tell what you think the city or country might be like today. _____

Now tell what you think it might be like if the three groups lived there at the same time. _____

3. Tell about some differences between the religions

and social customs of the three groups.

Tell about some ideas, or ways of doing things that are similar in both groups. _____

4. Tell about a contribution made to our country by three different people each from a different racial, ethnic, or religious background.

Person _____

Background _____

Contribution _____

Person _____

Background _____

Contribution _____

Person _____

Background _____

Contribution _____

5. Give a talk to your Scout unit or class at school on how people from different groups have gotten along together. _____

Lead a discussion on what can be done to help various groups understand one another better. _____

Online Resources: *(Use any Internet resource with caution and only with your parent's or guardian's permission.)*

Boy Scouts of America: ► scouting.org ► [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) ► [Age-Appropriate Guidelines](#) ► [Safe Swim Defense](#)
 ► [Scout](#) ► [Tenderfoot](#) ► [Second Class](#) ► [First Class](#) ► [Rank Videos](#) ► [Safety Afloat](#)

Boy Scout Merit Badge Workbooks: usscouts.org -or- meritbadge.org **Merit Badge Books:** www.scoutstuff.org

Requirement Resources

These resources and much more are at: http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/American_Cultures

1 - 5. American Cultures resources:

- **Library of Congress** - Cultural songs, dances, poems, and stories
 - [America's Story](#) - Story of cultures in America
 - [Library of Congress Jukebox](#) - Cultural music
 - [Library of Congress American Memory Exhibit](#) - Historic maps, photos, documents, audio and video
- **General Cultural Links:**
 - [US Government's Cultures and Ethnic Groups links](#) - [Digital History: Ethnic America](#) - [The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation](#) - [Immigration](#) - [Ethnic Group Links](#)
 - [American Heroes](#) - Notable persons of black, Irish, Hispanic, Jewish, Christian, and American Indian heritages.
 - [Wikipedia: Ethnic Groups in the US](#) - [Wikipedia: Melting pot](#) - [Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity](#) - [Project Race](#)
- **Cultural Groups:**
 - **African American:** [Biography: Black History](#) - [Black History](#) - [Famous Black Inventors](#) - [Notable African Americans](#) - [Encyclopedia of Prominent African-Americans](#) - [Black History Month – Teacher Resources](#) - [Famous Black Americans](#) - [African American Links](#) - [University of NC Black Culture site](#) - [Black History](#)
 - **American Indian:** [Indian Lore Merit Badge](#) - [Top 10 Famous American Indians](#) - [Notable American Indians](#) - [American Indian Studies](#) - [Indian Tribes](#)
 - **Arab American:** [Arab American Institute](#) - [Arab American Links](#)
 - **Asian American:** [Library of Congress Asian Resources](#) - [Notable Asian Pacific Americans](#) - [Asian-Nation](#) - [Asian American Links](#)
 - **Hispanic American:** [Library of Congress Hispanic Resources](#) - [Notable Hispanic Americans](#) - [Hispanic Heritage](#) - [Hispanic-Heritage Resources for Teachers](#) - [Notable Hispanic Americans](#) - [Hispanic Heritage](#) [Hispanic American Links](#) -
 - **Jewish American:** [National Jewish Committee on Scouting](#) - [American Jewish history](#) - [Jewish-American History on the Web](#) - [Jewish American Links](#)
 - **White Cultural Groups:** [British](#) - [German](#) - [Irish](#) - [American](#) - [Italian](#) - [Polish](#) - [French](#) - [Scottish](#) - [Dutch](#) - [Norwegian](#) - [Scots-Irish](#) - [Swedish](#) - [Russian](#)
- **Cultural Events:** [Library of Congress Cultural Events and Places](#) [State Tourism Offices](#) - [State Tourism Sites](#)

General Resources

Ancestry: 2000 (Census 2000 Brief): www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html

The Center for English as a Second Language at the University of Arizona: <http://www.cesl.arizona.edu/custom.html>

Test of Courage: <http://pbs.org/testofcourage/diversity4.html>