

## Classroom Connections & Additional Activities

1. Read *When Africa Was Home* by Karen Williams. Make a list of things in the students' homes which would be missing if they were in Africa. Talk about how your school life would be different if you were in Africa. **LA**
2. In a flat box or tray, construct a savannah. Use sand, twigs for trees, and animals made of clay or cut from magazines. **SS** **SCI**
3. As you read books set in other countries, locate the country on a globe or map and identify cultural similarities and differences. **SS**
4. Listen to the CD "Legend of the Tortoise" and move to the music. **MUSIC** **PE**
5. Make a Respect bulletin board. Collect and post pictures of people from around the world, noting how they are the same and different. Look for pictures showing respect. **SS**
6. Make a cardboard picture frame. Decorate it with old jigsaw puzzle pieces. Paint. Put in a picture of someone you respect. **ART**

## Masai and I

Virginia Kroll,  
Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter.  
1992  
New York: Simon and Schuster

### RESPECT

*Africa (Tanzania)/  
African American  
Reading Time: 6 minutes*

#### CONCEPTS

Respect

#### SUMMARY

**A young African American girl envisions what it would be like to live among the proud people called the Masai. She feels a special closeness and kinship with these unique people who live in such a different way. Best of all, this city girl realizes that the love and respect she feels for her family would be the same in any country, any culture. Carpenter's paintings perfectly blend two distinct worlds, contrasting a contemporary urban lifestyle with a traditional Masai village.**

#### OBJECTIVE

The student will be able to define and discuss respect as it applies to this narrative. The student will be able to identify similarities and differences between the cultures.



## After the Story

### Masai and I

#### DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the ways Linda's life would be different if she lived in Africa? How would Linda's life stay the same if she were Masai? (Have children look at the birthday party illustration for help.) What do you think she would enjoy about being Masai?
2. Talk about what respect means. The more Linda learned about the Masai, the more she understood and respected them. Which pictures show this? Discuss. If a Masai girl came to Linda's school, what do you think Linda would do?
3. Let's pretend someone from a faraway country is coming to visit our class. When they come in the door, we can see that they look a lot like us, but their clothes and hair might be different from ours. What could we do to welcome our guest? How could we show this person our respect?
4. How do we show respect to each other in our classroom?

#### ACTIVITIES

1. Explain that the Masai people sometimes celebrate with a dance where they jump straight and high. Make a circle and let the children jump to the beat of a drum. (This could be a bucket, waste paper can, or even hands on thighs.)
2. Draw a picture of ways students celebrate special occasions.
3. Invite someone from another country to talk about their cultural customs, or invite parents to share aspects of their heritage.
4. Make a class Respect Book. Talk about things we respect and why we respect them (Earth, classroom, grandparents, etc.). In small groups or individually children can illustrate items or people they respect.

#### WRAP-UP

In *My Heartwood Journal*, draw a picture of yourself meeting and greeting a classroom visitor.

#### EXTENSION

1. At home ask about your family's ethnic roots. Ask someone to write the information on a card and bring the card to class to share. Post the cards with children's photos.
2. Ask a grown-up at home to tell about a person whom he or she respects.
3. Send home the Heartwood Family Newsletter on Respect.

#### VOCABULARY

kinship  
gourds  
kraal  
tanning

parched