Celebrate

Asia

In

Children's

Literature

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Bibliography


Through photographs the reader is taken on a lively world tour of things kids do. From Ecuador to Israel, Mongolia to the Philippines, there are references to children’s snacks, board games, and acting silly whenever you can and wherever you are.


An excellent resource for recipes and general information organized by world regions.


The original fairy tale written by Hans Christian Anderson has been reworked with illustrations by well known children’s literature illustrator Demi. The story tells of a Chinese emperor who banishes a beautiful nightingale for a jeweled mechanical imitation. The little nightingale remains faithful and returns years later when the emperor is near death and no one else can help him. (See video version under “media.”)


This collection of tales from India contains many well known and beloved stories that have been handed down over the centuries. Among the eighteen titles are “The Monkey and the Crocodile,” “The Foolish, Timid Rabbit,” and “The Crab and the Crane.” Jataka tales are part of the sacred literature of Buddhism and tell of the previous births as animals of the Buddha.


“In a brilliant combination of lyrical prose and glowing watercolors, this book captures the soul of the ancient and sacred banyan, painting a vivid picture of its importance to the people and other animals that flourish beneath and within its welcoming branches.” The story provides a unique glimpse of the interconnectedness of life in a rural culture.

This collection of Chinese stories begins with the great legends of how Earth and Heaven came into being, and how the archer Yi rid the Emperor Yao of the Menace of the ten suns. There are folktales here, too: about ghosts and rain-makers. Throughout all these stories the author has kept the subtle oriental flavor of the originals and brings to life all the magic and mystery of China.


The cover was taken from a work of art by Hokusai Katsushika, a Japanese artist who created woodblock prints depicting everyday events. This particular work of art can be viewed at the Toledo Museum of Art. The book tells the story of fourteen-year-old Manjiro who, in 1841 is rescued by an American whaling vessel after a terrible shipwreck leaves him and his four companions castaways on a remote island. Manjiro learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.


This classic Japanese tale speaks to readers of all ages with its timeless lessons on the nature of betrayal, kindness, and love. The author read the tale on his audiotape in 1994 titled, The Blossom Tree.


A timeless classic by the author of The Good Earth, this chapter book is written for children ages 8 to 12. Kino lives on a farm on the side of a mountain in Japan. His friend, Jiya, lives in the fishing village below. Everyone, including Kino and Jiya, has heard of the big wave. No one suspects it will wipe out the whole village and Jiya’s family, too. As Jiya struggles to overcome his sorrow, he understands it is in the presence of danger that one learns to be brave, and to appreciate how wonderful life can be.


The Birdman is a true story of Noor Nobi who made it his mission to free caged birds in Calcutta, India. Both artwork and photographs are used to tell the story. This spectacular selfless man would nurse the birds back to health and then set them free.

By the author of *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, this "I Can Read" book tells the story of the California gold rush. Chang's dream is to own a horse of his own. With luck... and a little gold dust... that wish may come true.


This thought-provoking tale tells the story of Sadako and her fight against leukemia and the effects of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.


An informational book detailing the geography, history, customs, and people of this thriving metropolis. At the back of the book is an index, section on further information, and a detailed glossary.


In this delightful picture book, Demi tells the story of how kites came to be at the center of *The Double Ninth Festival*. The handmade kites are believed to have magical properties that can drive away the evil spirits. Directions are given at the end of the book on how to make a simple kite.


Through the use of beautiful illustrations Demi has created a biography that stands as an excellent introduction to Islam. The poetry on both the front and back covers of the book are truly inspirational to the reader.


Demi, author/illustrator of this adaptation of a famous Indian folktale, takes her inspiration from traditional Indian miniature paintings. This is the story of how one grain of rice, doubled every day to thirty days becomes one billion grains of rice.

A reference book for upper elementary students that provides selected information on countries and regions.


In preparation for writing this book, Freedman traveled to China and interviewed the descendants of Confucius and made his way through the *Analects*, the words written down by his followers. Both the front and back of the book contain his sayings such as, “To study quietly, to remain always hungry for knowledge, to teach others without growing weary – all this comes to me naturally.”


Jean Fritz, well known author of historical fiction in American history, was born in China and lived there until 1927, when she was twelve. Jean had spent her entire life in China, but her parents’ memories of home and letters from relatives in Pennsylvania made her feel that she was American and homesick for a place she’d never seen!


Using letters written by a teacher to her class while traveling on a nine month cruise, readers will learn many interesting facts about sites all over the world. In March, Miss Lewis, the fictional teacher travels to Japan. You will have to read the book to find out about the mysterious snowballs she finds near the hot springs.


In the words of the *Boston Herald*, “To enter *The Samurai’s Tale* is to immerse oneself completely in 16th century Japan, when powerful warlords struggled for supremacy. Seldom does an historical novel evoke the mood, color, and soul of an era as skillfully as this one does.”


A picture book that presents brief descriptions of many different kinds of families, both traditional and nontraditional.

An informational book that would be appropriate for use in third grade and above clearly shows all elements of the history and culture of Pakistan. The back of the book lists other books and resources that are available for study of Pakistan.


A pair of pigs, Toot and Puddle, share their tales of friendship. Toot travels to wildest Borneo to gather exotic plans, but when he returns with the Violet Virus, it is up to Opal and Puddle to find a cure. Included in this book are postcards mailed to Puddle from many faraway places. A good book to teach students how to write postcards to their friends.


A young boy is invited to join his aunt and uncle in Nepal and India. The book details the boy’s travels through journals and letters. An extraordinary amount of information about the sites, animals, etc. is provided by the scientists that collaborated with the authors.


Designed as a history and activities book for ages 9 and up this book provides a wealth of information about Marco Polo. Kids join an interactive environment as 17 – year – old Marco Polo makes his journey to China from Venice along the thirteenth century Silk Road. There are many activities to try along the way such as drawing a mystical map, creating a mosaic, making yogurt and others.


Using the art technique of cut paper collage, Jenkins gives the reader a closeup look at the history, geography, climate, and culture of Mount Everest. The reader is given a vicarious experience in the adventure of climbing the tallest peak on our planet Earth.


Set in Pakistan, Rukhsana Khan’s original story features a spunky and resourceful little girl who boldly faces her fears to become the Ruler of the Courtyard. After confronting what she believes to be a snake in the bath house, Saba finds the courage to overcome her fear of the chickens in the courtyard.
Recommended for ages 4-8.


Jerry Pinkney adapts and retells this Kipling tale in picture book format. In the afterword he states, “Rikki needed to explore the garden of rosebushes and orange trees, to evade the deadly little snakeling and leap out of harm’s way from Nag, to visit with his newfound friends Darzee the tailorbird and Carzee’s wife, and to jump on Teddy’s shoulder and sleep in his bed.” The story takes place in an English family’s house and garden in India.


Water is a precious commodity in most parts of the world. This is a vivid illustration in words and pictures of the wait for the monsoon season to arrive in India.


An activity book filled with ideas for hands on projects of all kinds. Each section details a continent.


Wiang Ming enjoys going to the beach where his mother teaches him how to make Chinese characters by drawing pictures in the sand.


This informational book is suitable for the upper grades as a resource for the study of Tibet. Tibet includes the highest point on earth, Mt. Everest, as well as areas that can not even support vegetation. Tibet is an ancient country filled with traditions.


This cookbook contains recipes from many countries. The recipes are easy to make. The collection is perfect for teachers to use as a resource when setting up a multicultural buffet. In addition to the recipes, food facts, activities, and general information about each culture is provided.

Here are stories from the legendary past of Japan: stories about the birth of the country, stories of the gods and warriors. Also included are folktale stories of woodcutters and fishermen who enter strange, enchanted worlds.


The author combines his knowledge about Tolstoy and his studies of Zen to weave this tale of young Nikolai who seeks the counsel of Leo, the wise old turtle who lives in the mountains.


As a stunning picture book, this Korean folktale tells of the metamorphosis of the Weeping Princess into the beggar’s champion and retains the timely feminist perspective of one of the oldest tales in Korean folklore.


Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters’ village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself. This fictional account of a creative spirit on its journey toward fulfillment is set in twelfth-century Korea.


Young-sup holds a kite in his hand and he knows exactly how to make it fly. His older brother, on the other hand, has difficulties with his kite even though he knows just how to construct one. The author has created two very strong characters who are struggling to find out just exactly who they are. This fictional story is situated in Korea in 1473 and details the annual New Year kite-flying competition.


A guide to countries and continents in today’s rapidly changing world.

The publisher of this pictorial odyssey surrounding Mount Everest provides the reader with everything they need to know about climbing to the top of the World. It covers topics such as safety and the use of modern climbing methods.


The title describes what you will find in this fantastic source of activities for student enjoyment. The art and crafts ideas for each continent are interspersed with informational postcards.


This college textbook is filled with background information about the regions of the world.


Written in conjunction with UNICEF, *A Life Like Mine* is written in the words of Harry Belafonte, A Goodwill Ambassador for this world organization. Belafonte states that the book "records the courage, energy, joy, and optimism of children all over the world." The book is divided by topics such as child development (playing) and relates how children from different parts of the globe spend their time.


The author heard this folktale as a child as an oral tale from her family. The folktale is rich in traditional Korean values: hard work is rewarded, greed and Nastiness are punished. The author created the art using rice paper, Korean ink, and watercolor. A picture book suitable as a read aloud for all ages.


Twenty of the most widely known Japanese children’s stories are contained in this book. Since the stories have been handed down over time, many of the titles are well-known tales from the folklore of the world at large. The tales surround the
virtues of honesty, humility, kindness and good humor.


This picture book is a retelling of a Chinese legend – an inspiring tale of a young heroine who is courageous, selfless, and wise. Disguised as a man, Fa Mulan travels with the Khan's army to fight the Tartars. In the end Fa Mulan must choose between her traditional life and the exciting life as a warrior.


Two American soldiers enter the courtyard of a playground in Japan and silence sets upon the children. After the soldiers wave and ride the principal's bike, the children dare to open up and overcome their shyness. This is a true story taken from the author's childhood.


A young Japanese boy celebrates his very first Christmas. Two cultures combine for the day as the boy's mother shares a glimpse of her American childhood with her son.


A pictorial biography, *Gandhi* is a clearly written and informative selection about the twentieth-century hero of India and the world.


This colorful, creative book shares information about people everywhere. The author's purpose is to share the life lesson that we all can live together in peaceful harmony by understanding and accepting one another.


This pictorial atlas details the people of the world from an elementary approach. Selected facts are provided for each of the major areas of Asia.

A chapter book that has been written for ages 8 to 12 years of age. A twelve-year-old American girl finds herself in Nepal for two months on a medical mission with her family. The book details an adventure in what it means to be a family.


Ut has come to the United States from Vietnam, and she does not like her new American school with all of its strange ways. Her language is not accepted as well as her dress. One boy, named Raymond, ends up being her best friend when he thinks up a perfect way to help Ut.


The time of this sensitive young adult novel is the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the setting is the West Coast of the United States. A young Japanese American family is torn apart after their Father is taken by the FBI. The book is written from the perspective of Yuki, an eleven-year-old. Without their father at the head of the family Yuki, mother, and an older brother move to a concentration camp known as Topaz. This is an awesome book that has strong central characters who live and question the prevailing policies of the time.


Long ago in China there lived a powerful governor named Ts’ao Ts’ao. Neighboring rulers would send him presents to keep in his favor. This year the ruler of India sent him a most unusual present. Ts’ao Ts’ao wanted to know the weight of his gift. The hero of this tale turns out to be the governor’s son. Ed Young is the illustrator for the book.


The main character in this young adult novel is Moon Shadow who is eight years old when he emigrates from China to join his father in San Francisco. This is a poignant story of the trials and tribulations of moving to a new country. The story is based on a true story involving a Chinese immigrant who constructed a flying machine in 1909. *Dragon Wings* is a Newbery Honor Book.


A poor shepherd boy wins the hand of the Khan’s daughter in this engaging folktales. Both the Mongolian steppes and the court of the Khan are depicted with playful illustrations by Jean and Mou-sien Tseng.

Filled with twenty wonderful short tales from China that have been handed down through the centuries. One of the tales, *The Old Jar*, tells the story of a very poor old woman who lives in a small hut in the countryside. The frugal woman has only three coins to her name. You must read and share this tale with others to find out that the old jar has magical properties that change the woman’s life.


A young boy hears the story of his great-great-great grandfather and his brother who came to the United States to make a better life for themselves helping to build the transcontinental railroad. The author’s note at the end of the book tells how the historical basis for the book and of the cruelty that the Chinese workers experienced in mid-1800s America.


This story of a Taino Indian boy on the island of San Salvador recounts the landing of Columbus and his men in 1492. It has been included due to the fact that the early explorers were looking for an easier way to sail west to find the riches of the east.


In the format called a “flip book” this poem takes the artwork of Ed Young to its highest level. The lyrical text and illustrations feature Chinese characters and paper collage to introduce the beauty and richness of China.


Well known as a “Red Riding Hood story from China,” Young received the Caldecott medal for this spectacular picture book with original artwork using watercolors and pastels. The author translated this well known tale from the oral tradition. The version of Lon Po Po is thought to be over a thousand years old.


This picture book is ageless in the many ways it can be used in a K-12 classroom. It is based upon an Indian fable titled, *The Blind Men and the Elephant.* Transferring the idea of the blind men to seven blind mice who discover different
parts of an elephant and argue over its appearance. Winner of the Caldecott medal for picture books.

MEDIA


This CD introduces listeners to the rich music of the Asian continent while providing a backdrop for many relaxing activities. The informative liner notes give details on the musical traditions presented plus a recipe for chai, India’s flavorful spiced milk tea.

Once upon a time, a Rabbit was asleep under a palm-tree. All at once he woke up, and thought: "What if the world should break up! What then would become of me?"

At that moment, some Monkeys dropped a coconut. It fell down on the ground just back of the Rabbit.

Hearing the noise, the Rabbit said to himself: "The earth is all breaking up!"

And he jumped up and ran just as fast as he could, without even looking back to see what made the noise.
Another Rabbit saw him running, and called after him, "What are you running so fast for?"
"Don't ask me!" he cried.
But the other Rabbit ran after him, begging to know what was the matter.
Then the first Rabbit said: "Don't you know? The earth is all breaking up!"
And on he ran, and the second Rabbit ran with him.
The next Rabbit they met ran with them when he heard that the earth was all breaking up.
One Rabbit after another joined them, until there were hundreds of Rabbits running as fast as they could go.
They passed a Deer, calling out to him that the earth was all breaking up. The Deer then ran with them.
The Deer called to a Fox to come along because the earth was all breaking up.
On and on they ran, and an Elephant joined them.
At last the Lion saw the animals running, and heard their cry that the earth was all breaking up.
He thought there must be some mistake, so he ran to the foot of a hill in front of them and roared three times.
This stopped them, for they knew the voice of the King of Beasts, and they feared him.
"Why are you running so fast?" asked the Lion.
"Oh, King Lion," they answered him, "the earth is all breaking up!"
"Who saw it breaking up?" asked the Lion.
"I didn't," said the Elephant. "Ask the Fox—he told me about it."
"I didn't," said the Fox.
"The Rabbits told me about it," said the Deer.
One after another of the Rabbits said: "I did not see it, but another Rabbit told me about it."
At last the Lion came to the Rabbit who had first said the earth was all breaking up.
"Is it true that the earth is all breaking up?" the Lion asked.
"Yes, O Lion, it is," said the Rabbit. "I was asleep under a palm-tree. I woke up and thought, 'What would become of me if the earth should all break up?' At that very moment, I heard the sound of the earth breaking up, and I ran away."

"Then," said the Lion, "you and I will go back to the place where the earth began to break up, and see what is the matter."

So the Lion put the little Rabbit on his back, and away they went like the wind. The other animals waited for them at the foot of the hill.

The Rabbit told the Lion when they were near the place where he slept, and the Lion saw just where the Rabbit had been sleeping.

He saw, too, the coconut that had fallen to the ground nearby. Then the Lion said to the Rabbit, "It must have been the sound of the coconut falling to the ground that you heard. You foolish Rabbit!"

And the Lion ran back to the other animals, and told them all about it.

If it had not been for the wise King of Beasts, they might be running still.

Long, long ago there was a funny old woman, who liked to laugh and to make dumplings of rice-flour.

One day, while she was preparing some dumplings for dinner, she let one fall; and it rolled into a hole in the earthen floor of her little kitchen and disappeared. The old woman tried to reach it by putting her hand down the hole, and all at once the earth gave way, and the old woman fell in.

She fell quite a distance, but was not a bit hurt; and when she got up on her feet again, she saw that she was standing on a road, just like the road before her house. It was quite light down there; and she could see plenty of rice-fields, but no one in them. How all this happened, I cannot tell you. But it seems that the old woman had fallen into another country.

The road she had fallen upon sloped very much; so, after having looked for her dumpling in vain, she thought that it must have rolled farther away down the slope. She ran down the road to look, crying:

“My dumpling, my dumpling! Where is that dumpling of mine?”

After a little while she saw a stone Fizó standing by the roadside, and she said:

“O Lord Fizó, did you see my dumpling?”

Fizó answered:

“Yes, I saw your dumpling rolling by me down the road. But you had better not go any farther, because there is a wicked Oni living down there, who eats people.”

But the old woman only laughed, and ran on further down the road, crying: “My dumpling, my dumpling! Where is that dumpling of mine?” And she came to another statue of Fizó, and asked it:
“O kind Lord Fizó, did you see my dumpling?”

And Fizó said:

“Yes, I saw your dumpling go by a little while ago. But you must not run any further, because there is a wicked Oni down there, who eats people.”

But she only laughed, and ran on, still crying out: “My dumpling, my dumpling! Where is that dumpling of mine?” And she came to a third Fizó and asked it:

“O dear Lord Fizó, did you see my dumpling?”

But Fizó said:

“Don’t talk about your dumpling now. Here is the Oni coming. Squat down here behind my sleeve, and don’t make any noise.”

Presently the Oni came very close, and stopped and bowed to Fizó, and said:

“Good-day, Fizó San!”

Fizó said good-day, too, very politely.

Then the Oni suddenly sniffed the air two or three times in a suspicious way, and cried out: “Fizó San, Fizó San! I smell a smell of mankind somewhere—don’t you?”

“Oh!” said Fizó, “perhaps you are mistaken.”

“No, no!” said the Oni after sniffing the air again, “I smell a smell of mankind.”

Then the old woman could not help laughing—“Te-be-be!”—and the Oni immediately reached down his big hairy hand behind Fizó’s sleeve, and pulled her out, still laughing, “Te-be-be!”

“Ah! ha!” cried the Oni.

Then Fizó said:

“What are you going to do with that good old woman? You must not hurt her.”

“I won’t,” said the Oni. “But I will take her home with me to cook for us.”

“Te-be-be!” laughed the old woman.

“Very well,” said Fizó, “but you must really be kind to her. If you are not, I shall be very angry.”

“I won’t hurt her at all,” promised the Oni; “and she will only have to do a little work for us every day. Good-by, Fizó San.”

Then the Oni took the old woman far down the road, till they came to a wide deep river, where there was a boat. He put her into the boat, and took her across the river to his house. It was a very large house. He led her at once into the kitchen, and told her to cook some
dinner for himself and the other Oni who lived with him. And he gave her a small wooden rice-paddle, and said:

"You must always put only one grain of rice into the pot, and when you stir that one grain of rice in the water with this paddle, the grain will multiply until the pot is full."

So the old woman put just one rice-grain into the pot, as the Oni told her, and began to stir it with the paddle; and, as she stirred, the one grain became two,—then four,—then eight,—then sixteen, thirty-two, sixty-four, and so on. Every time she moved the paddle the rice increased in quantity; and in a few minutes the great pot was full.

After that, the funny old woman stayed a long time in the house of the Oni, and every day cooked food for all his friends. The Oni never hurt or frightened her, and her work was made quite easy by the magic paddle—although she had to cook a very, very great quantity of rice, because an Oni eats much more than any human being eats.

But she felt lonely, and always wished very much to go back to her own little house, and make her dumplings. And one day, when the Oni were all out somewhere, she thought she would try to run away.

She first took the magic paddle, and slipped it under her girdle; and then she went down to the river. No one saw her; and the boat was there. She got into it, and pushed off; and as she could row very well, she was soon far away from the shore.

But the river was very wide; and she had not rowed more than one-fourth of the way across, when the Oni, all of them, came back to the house.

They found that their cook was gone, and the magic paddle, too. They ran down to the river at once, and saw the old woman rowing away very fast.

Perhaps they could not swim: at all events they had no boat; and they thought the only way they could catch the funny old woman would be to drink up all the water of the river before she got to the other bank. So they knelt down, and began to drink so fast that before the old woman had got half way over, the water had become quite low.

But the old woman kept on rowing until the water had got so shallow that the Oni stopped drinking, and began to wade across. Then she dropped her oar, took the magic paddle from her girdle, and shook it at the Oni, and made such funny faces that the Oni all burst out laughing.
But the moment they laughed, they could not help throwing up all the water they had drunk, and so the river became full again. The Oni could not cross; and the funny old woman got safely over to the other side, and ran away up the road as fast as she could.

She never stopped running until she found herself at home again.

After that she was very happy; for she could make dumplings whenever she pleased. Besides, she had the magic paddle to make rice for her. She sold her dumplings to her neighbors and passengers, and in quite a short time she became rich.

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Indian Elephant

What you need:
- Brown paper lunch bag
- Old newspapers
- Transparent tape
- Assorted markers
- Wiggly eyes (optional)
- Glue stick
- Brown and white construction paper
- Child safety scissors

What you do:
1. Loosely stuff the bag with crumpled newspapers. Fold over the top of the bag and tape flat.
2. Use a marker to draw the elephant's face onto the bag. Glue on the wiggly eyes.
3. Cut out the elephant's trunk and ears from the brown paper. Cut out the tusks from the white paper.

Namastay!
Today was the Elephant Festival. The elephants' owners decorated their elephants and marched with them in a parade. The elephants walked very slowly. They are so wonderful and friendly. I love elephants!

Your Friend
4. Use a marker to outline the ears and trunk. Glue the tusks, trunk, and ears onto the elephant.

Try this Experiment.
Elephants are smart, hard workers! In India, elephants help workers lift and move logs. Put your hand inside an athletic sock. Practice lifting and moving things with your "trunk." How hard is it to pick up a box of cereal? A basketball? A toy car?

Learn More! Read Big, Rough, and Wrinkly (What Am I?) by Moira Butterfield and Wayne Ford.

Site:
Native to the Indian subcontinent and southeastern Asia.
The African elephant is found in sub-Saharan Africa.
Indian Elephant

Templates for

Elephant ears

(make 2)

Elephant trunk

(brown paper)

(brown paper)
For centuries, China stood as a leading civilization, outpacing the rest of the world in the arts and sciences, but in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the country was beset by civil unrest, major famines, military defeats, and foreign occupation. After World War II, the Communists under MAO Zedong established an autocratic socialist system that, while ensuring China's sovereignty, imposed strict controls over everyday life and cost the lives of tens of millions of people. After 1978, his successor DENG Xiaoping and other leaders focused on market-oriented economic development and by 2000, output had quadrupled. For much of the population, living standards have improved dramatically and the room for personal choice has expanded, yet political controls remain tight.

China has the world's largest continuously used written language system, and has been the source of some of the world's greatest inventions, including the Four Great Inventions of ancient China: paper, the compass, gunpowder, and printing.

### Chinese Almond Cookies

1 cup vegetable shortening or butter
1 cup granulated sugar
2 egg yolks
2 teaspoons almond extract
1 teaspoon vanilla
4 drops yellow food coloring
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
Dash salt
Whole almonds

Preheat oven to 250°. In a mixing bowl, cream shortening and sugar together with a fork. In a small bowl, break eggs and separate whites from yolks using a spoon to pull out yolks. Put yolks in another small bowl. Put whites aside. Beat yolks slightly with a fork and add to sugar mixture. Add almond extract, vanilla, and food coloring and beat well. Measure two cups of flour. Pour onto sugar mixture. Add baking powder and salt to mixture. Lightly stir dry ingredients so that soda and salt are dispersed slightly through the flour. Mix all ingredients together with a large spoon or mixing fork. When ingredients are fully mixed, add a little more flour if the mixture seems too soft. Chill dough in refrigerator for about 15 minutes.

Take teaspoons of dough and roll into balls. Press lightly onto cookie sheet. Then press one almond into the center of each cookie. Place cookies about 2 inches apart. Beat egg whites with a fork and add a few drops of yellow food coloring. Before baking cookies, paint the top of each with egg white. Bake cookies for about 20 to 25 minutes. Makes about 3 dozen.

A Taste of Asia

The almond you savor fresh out of the can, on your salad or cereal, in your dessert or casserole, came a long way to please your palate. Although primarily a California product today, the cultivated almond traces its origins to the deserts and lower mountain slopes of central and southwest Asia.

It is thought to have evolved from the same primitive stock as the peach, but took a different genetic route millions of years ago when the land rose up to form the mountains that separate Central Asia from China and Mongolia. The theory goes that, from then on, the peach evolved eastward into China, at lower elevations in regions of higher humidity, while the almond spread along the fringes of the deserts and lower mountain slopes to the west, developing many subspecies along the way.

The offspring of those early varieties still grow on the western slopes of the Tian Shan Mountains that separate western China from Kazakhstan, and to the south and west, in Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and northern Iran. Typically small, thorny trees, they produce small, hard-shelled, bitter nuts. These varieties favor the mild, wet winters and dry, hot summers found at moderate elevations in this rugged region of the world.

From Biblical times forward the sweet-scented, early blooms of the almond have appeared in art, music and literature as symbols of beauty, hope, and rebirth.

The protective shape of the almond seed itself has also figured prominently in art, especially religious art of the Renaissance and earlier. The distinctive oval of the kernel forms a halo around religious figures in paintings, stained glass windows, frescoes, friezes, on book covers and in many other art forms to signify spiritual energy or to serve as a protective shield. Widely used by Italian artists, the halo was referred to by them as a mandorla, the Italian word for almond.
Culture Kits

As a member of FAME, you are entitled to borrow items from the FAME Resource Landing Library, including our comprehensive Culture Kits. Each culture kit contains a variety of curriculum materials, including posters, video tapes, music CDs and cassettes, books, lesson plans, maps, cultural artifacts, games, folk tales, and musical instruments from the various cultures. The kits may be borrowed for up to three weeks and are available in several locations in all three FAME regions. To receive your Culture Kit, contact the representative nearest to you from the list to the right. Please use these valuable resources!

16 Culture Kits are now available, including Indiana Arts (new for 2007-08).

Cultures represented in our Library include:

- Indiana Arts
- African-American Arts
- East Central and South Africa
- Southeast Asia
- Central Europe & Balkan States
- Caribbean America & Mexico
- Former Soviet Union & Eurasia
- Middle East & North Africa
- Northwest Europe
- Native American
- South America
- American Folk
- West Africa
- South Asia
- East Asia
- Oceania