



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Cultural Heritage: Who Am I? (First of four features)

Diversity is the quality of being different or varied. Diversity makes individuals unique and societies colorful. Let's focus on finding the differences and similarities between your own cultural heritage and that of others.

Who Am I Poem?

List as many characteristics as you can that answer the question *Who are you?* The list may include physical as well as non-physical traits. Then place those characteristics into a poem format. You may choose your own format or use the template provided below.

Who Am I Poem Template

First Name	_____
Four words that describe you	_____
Relative of	_____
Lover of	_____
Who needs	_____
Who fears	_____
Who would like to see	_____
Who lives at	_____
City, State	_____
Last Name	_____

DISCUSSION

Share your poems with classmates, noting the similarities and differences. Discuss the idea of diversity. Are differences good? What do differences add to a community or society? Can diversity be threatening? How so? Consider the benefits of a diverse population, and then speculate why some people may be opposed to the idea of celebrating diversity.

EXTENSIONS

- **Diversity Quilt.** Fold a piece of construction paper that has been cut into an 8" x 8" square into four quadrants. Using markers, paper and glue, decorate each of the four quadrants with the heritage from your great-grandparents, grandparents, parents and you.
- **Newspaper Activity.** Locate an article that focuses on someone with your heritage. Write a paragraph summarizing the article's contents and how it relates to your heritage.

Learning outcomes: Explores cultural heritage of self and others, connects newspaper articles to own life.

This 4-week series is written by Matt Cox, sixth-grade teacher at Big Walnut Middle School, Sunbury, and Leah Miller, tenth- and eleventh-grade English teacher at Upper Arlington High School.