

# Cultivate Connections Around the World!

AN INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS  
CHALLENGE FOR PATHFINDERS & RANGERS

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This Challenge was created by the BC International Committee.

A special thanks to the youth members of the International committee for their valuable input in creating this challenge,

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This challenge was reviewed by the Girl Guides of Canada DEI committee.



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## Introduction

This challenge is designed to allow you to explore each of the five world **regions** of Guiding by learning about the culture in **one country from each region**.

You will attempt to do this by meeting people from different parts of the world that live or work in your own community. Members of your unit and their families may also be useful resources for this challenge. You will engage them to learn about their cultural or indigenous backgrounds in an authentic way. Instead of actually traveling, you will learn about the world from those who have traveled to your community!

## Guidelines

We want you to have authentic international experiences while working on this challenge.

Here are the guidelines for this challenge.

1. Think about the difference between cultural appreciation and appropriation. The difference between **appreciating** a culture, which might include enjoying food from another country or learning a new language, and **appropriating** it, which involves taking something “without authority or right”. **Appropriation** is when we make use of a symbol, activity, or aspect of a culture that is reserved solely for those who are part of that culture. We disrespect cultures when activities use someone else’s culture without thinking about and acknowledging how our actions affect the people whose culture we are engaging in.
2. The other important thing is to ensure that what you are doing is **authentic**. What is an authentic cultural experience? The greatest teachers about culture are people who know and understand the culture **deeply**. GGC recognizes that the best teachers are the people from the culture we are engaging in or learning about and therefore we encourage all members to involve the people and communities in the activities and events that are about their culture.  
<https://mbr.girlguides.ca/documents/mz/AboutGuiding/DI/Guiding-is-for-everyone.pdf>
3. GGC is a secular organization that welcomes girls and women from all and no religious affiliations. Moving away from religious practices that effectively exclude many girls allows us to remain true to our values and work towards serving all girls. Making sure that everyone feels included in your unit means that you won’t be celebrating religious holidays or singing songs that refer to “God.”  
[https://mbr.girlguides.ca/Documents/MZ/AboutGuiding/Guider%20Handbooks/Ranger\\_Guider\\_Handbook.pdf](https://mbr.girlguides.ca/Documents/MZ/AboutGuiding/Guider%20Handbooks/Ranger_Guider_Handbook.pdf)

Keep these points in mind as you go through this challenge. The purpose of this challenge is for you to explore different parts of the world from your own community in an authentic and fun way while adhering to the GGC diversity, inclusion and secularism standards. If you have questions, please contact [inclusivity@girlguides.ca](mailto:inclusivity@girlguides.ca).

Your unit or group can decide on the countries that you would like to 'explore' based on your interests and the resources available in your unit and your community. We have provided some ideas that will help you to explore the cultural diversity in your community. However, as every community is different, we trust that you will be able to determine if your activity fits within these guidelines. Most of all, we would like you to have fun as you explore different cultures while meeting and working with people from those cultures.

## Where in the world are you and your ancestors from?

The Guiding world is divided into five regions: **Africa, Arab, Asia Pacific, European and Western Hemisphere**. The goal of this challenge is for you to explore one country from each region by working with the people and resources in your unit and your community. We hope that you will be able to reach out to recent immigrants and to others in your community who have strong ties to the countries where they came from.

### WAGGGS World Map



<https://www.waggs.org/en/>

If you wish to have a more visual representation, provide a paper world map. Each Pathfinder, Ranger and Guider can mark the countries that are relevant to their families with a pencil, a tack or a sticker, etc.

Using the list below, identify the countries that are represented by members of your unit.

Add the names of the countries in the appropriate region.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Countries</b>		
Africa			
Arab			
Asia-Pacific			
Europe			
Western Hemisphere			

If your family has been Canadian for more than three generations, indicate Canada as your country unless you still have strong ties to other countries. Also, indicate if you have ties to different provinces or territories or to different indigenous groups. You can choose to explore another part of Canada as your Western Hemisphere country.

## **What have you learned?**

How diverse is your unit or group?

Are there members or ancestors from every WAGGGS region or just one or two?

Is anyone a recent immigrant?

Does anyone have strong roots in a different culture?

Using the information that you have gathered, see if any of the members in your unit or if their family members are willing to plan an activity for your group so that they can share information about where they are from.

## **Your Community**

Explore your community for international experiences. For example, check out restaurants, shops and events that represent cultures from different parts of the world. People that have moved to your community from different parts of the world often welcome the opportunity to show and tell others about their previous lives. Some people may turn you down but others may really appreciate your interest.

## **Goal**

This challenge is designed so that you can explore the cultural diversity in your own community. Try to 'visit' each of the five World regions as you explore. If that is not possible, try to 'visit' five different countries. We have provided some suggestions to help you proceed. As a last resort, explore the WAGGGS World Centre websites. (links included on pages 12 and 13).

## **Exploration**

We have provided some suggestions that may help members of your unit or guests that have volunteered. Ensure that they know that these are suggestions and if they have their own ideas, to go ahead with them. As a reminder, we are not allowed to present any activities related to specific religions.



## Cultural Art

Cultural Art can come in many forms such as; Literature, Dance, Music, Theatre and Art. We can explore and learn about a culture through all of these things. Here are some ideas.

**Literature;** Poetry, Drama etc. Is there a famous writer?

**Music:** Are there any unique or specific instruments or music pieces/songs?

**Dance:** Are there styles that are connected, in particular, to the country?

**Theatre:** Are there certain styles of theatre that are unique to the country?

**Art:** Is there a particular artist that is famous?

## A Taste of Culture

Food is an important part of cultural identity. Food centers not only on taste but also on sharing meals with loved ones, the pleasure of cooking, and the pride in one's culinary heritage.

Does the country have a “national dish”. Is there a dish that is widely considered to be its iconic food, eg. Paella in Spain, Sushi in Japan or Tourtière in Quebec.

Here are some things to consider:

- How do the foods represent distinct tastes and values?
- How does the country's location affect the ingredients of the food?
- Do you think the food's flavour/ingredients would change if you went to another part of the country? Why and how or why not?
- Could this dish be made at home with Canadian ingredients? What would be changed? What would stay the same?

## Folklore

Before you explore folklore from each of the countries you have picked, define what folklore is. This is very important to ensure you explore the right thing.

Folklore refers to traditional knowledge and beliefs that have usually been passed down by word of mouth. Folklore can consist of dramas, rituals, fairy tales, riddles, poems and songs. <https://www.studysmarter.co.uk/>

Do you know any folk stories from the county? Why are these stories important to the country?

What is the history behind it? Who started it and why?

Here is an example of a piece of folklore from the Ukraine with a link to the history behind it.

<https://euromaidanpress.com/2021/11/13/ukrainian-dolls-travel-the-world-exhibit-of-traditional-motanka-dolls-in-kyiv-photo-report/>



## Conclusion

Once you explore all of your countries, prepare a brief summary of your activities to share with the BC International team. Please include your summary along with a photo or two! [bc-international@girlguides.ca](mailto:bc-international@girlguides.ca)

Reflect on the similarities and differences in cultures that you have discovered through this challenge.

How do our cultures connect us, and how do our cultures contribute to our diversity?

## World Centers

<https://worldcentres.waggs.org/>

If you are having difficulty in finding a resource in your community that will help you to explore a certain world region, consider checking out the WAGGGS World Center websites.

Occasionally, the World Centers do offer on-line programs. For example, Sangam and Nuestra Cabana have both offered on-line cooking programs.

### Africa Region

Kusafiri <https://worldcentres.waggs.org/kusafiri/>



### Asia Pacific Region

Sangam <https://worldcentres.waggs.org/sangam/>



## Europe Region

Our Chalet <https://worldcentres.waggs.org/our-chalet/activities/>



Pax Lodge <https://worldcentres.waggs.org/pax-lodge/>



## Western Hemisphere

Nuestra Cabana <https://worldcentres.waggs.org/nuestra-cabana/>



## Arab

There is not yet a Guiding world center in the Arab region. Here is the link to the WAGGGS Arab region. <https://www.waggs.org/en/our-world/arab-region/about-us>



Please be prepared to pay individuals that are willing to help you achieve the objectives of this challenge, especially if they are a business. You can also offer to pay for supplies for an activity or craft. Check with your Guiders first, of course.

Thank you notes and possibly an appropriate photo of the activity or a box of cookies is always appreciated by people who agree to help your unit with this challenge.

Please also check out these sources of funding:



**BC members are invited to apply for this subsidy.**

The BC International Committee encourages members in BC to explore the many cultural opportunities available within communities throughout BC. As a unit activity, youth and Guiders are encouraged to explore the authentic opportunities available within your own community to learn about another culture. To help encourage units to explore culture, the committee will reimburse units \$5 per participant to help with the cost of your activities. This subsidy is available in 2024 and perhaps in 2025.

Some examples of these opportunities would be having a local cultural group share their culture with your group. They could possibly teach a traditional dance, a craft specific to their culture, a cooking lesson, etc. Alternatively, your unit could explore this same sort of opportunity online. Sangam often offers cooking lessons taught by the staff. Please complete the form for more information.

To apply for the reimbursement, please fill out the [Experience Culture Challenge Application Form](#)

**Districts and Areas may also be able to provide financial assistance.**

If you are from another province or territory, check to see if subsidies are available for you.

## **Pathfinder and Ranger Program Connections**

The Girls First program is girl-driven and designed to be highly flexible and agile. We encourage you to visit the digital platform to best determine how this challenge fits into the Program Areas and Themes.

You may want to start by exploring the following Program Areas:

Global Guiding

Our Story

Spirit of Guiding

World Stage

Local Communities

Canadian Connections

This is not a comprehensive list. You can apply your activities to the Girls First program as you see fit.

**Challenge Badge Requirements:** Explore the culture of one country in each of the 5 World Guiding Regions.



When you have done this, complete The BC Challenge Crest, Pin and Camp to go order form:

Form [https://www.girlguides.ca/web/BC/Girl\\_Engagement/BC\\_Challenges/BC/Camping/Camping\\_Challenges.aspx?hkey=4666ed5c-5743-418c-be85-99768a32d368](https://www.girlguides.ca/web/BC/Girl_Engagement/BC_Challenges/BC/Camping/Camping_Challenges.aspx?hkey=4666ed5c-5743-418c-be85-99768a32d368)

