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The following lesson was created by **Rebecca Briggs**, a teacher participating in a 2010 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Teachers entitled, "Exploring the Past: Archaeology in the Upper Mississippi River Valley."

World Literature and World Cultures

My project combines World Literature and World Cultures. I teach World Literature at the high school level and this unit will help students understand the various cultures that we read about. I will start with the question of "What is Culture" and from there introduce the concept with a PowerPoint presentation that shows various cultures and the students state what they can infer from the pictures and finally tell which culture it is. After a general class discussion about culture we will discuss basic human needs. The countries of the cultures will be shown on a world map and the differences in the environment of the countries will be noted. Students will be assigned to groups and given a hand out over basic human needs and an activity sheet to compare cultures. They will work as a group to determine how the three sample cultures meet those needs. After they have completed the activity, each group will share with the class what they have learned. Finally, each group will select a different culture to research and determine how their basic needs would be met. At the next class meeting those results will be shared.

The second lesson will introduce the concept of ethnocentrism and several vocabulary words related to our study of cultures. I will explain that we will be learning about different cultures as we read stories in World Literature about characters that live in different cultures. Also, an understanding of the concept of culture will enable us to understand the stories better. Future lessons will go more deeply into the components of culture: environment, technology, subsistence, settlement types, social organization and ideology. Students will also learn about the different levels of development of cultures from bands to empires. These lessons will be included along with our current reading for four weeks and as a culminating activity students will write a story individually or in collaboration with another student including literary elements such as figurative language, plot, character, setting, conflict and resolution.