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The Daily Warm-Ups series is a wonderful way to turn extra classroom minutes into valuable learning time. The 180 quick activities—one for each day of the school year—present and review information about different cultures of the world. These daily activities may be used at the very beginning of class to get students into learning mode, near the end of class to make good educational use of that transitional time, in the middle of class to shift gears between lessons—or whenever else you have minutes that now go unused. In addition to providing students with fascinating information, they are a natural path to other classroom activities involving critical thinking.

Daily Warm-Ups are easy-to-use reproducibles—simply photocopy the day’s activity and distribute it. Or make a transparency of the activity and project it on the board. You may want to use the activities for extra-credit points or as a check on the knowledge and critical-thinking skills that are acquired over time.

These activities have been chosen to address more of the “human” aspects of world cultures, focusing less on politics, war, and conflict. Some of the topics in the activities may be less familiar to students. In such cases, you may want to encourage students to use their textbooks or other resources to complete the activity.
The first section of this book looks at the features that contribute to cultures. You may want to use these activities to make students aware of these aspects of culture. The rest of the book is organized by region. Within each region, activities address certain key topics. To help you choose activities by topic, each activity title includes an icon. Here is a key to the topics:

- transmission of culture—proverbs, myths, customs, etc.
- keeping time—calendars, festivals, days of remembrance
- contributions to world culture—religion, food, cultural heritage sites, etc.
- language and literature
- important historical events
- people of note
- the arts
- how physical geography affects culture
- cultures in contact, in conflict, and in the process of change

However you choose to use them, Daily Warm-Ups are a convenient and useful supplement to your regular lesson plans. Make every minute of your class time count!

Daily Warm-Ups: World Cultures
Proverbs and Daily Life

Proverbs are short sayings people use all the time. Some proverbs give practical advice, such as “Look before you leap.” Some encourage people dealing with problems: “It’s darkest just before dawn.” And some pass judgment on a person’s actions: “More haste, less speed.”

The same thing holds true for cultures all around the world. All kinds of different peoples use proverbs. They are a way of passing on information within a culture. Through proverbs, people learn what is considered moral behavior.

Think of a proverb you are familiar with. (If you can’t think of any, use one of the ones above.) What is the purpose of the proverb—to give advice or encouragement, to pass judgment, or something else? Does it reflect a certain type of culture? Write one or two sentences for your answer.
**A Variety of Calendars**

What year is it? How do you know?

We take time for granted, but accurate clocks and calendars are fairly recent developments. And the Gregorian calendar—the calendar used in the United States—isn't the only one used in the world. In fact, about forty different calendars are in use today! However, most of them are used primarily to determine religious dates. Most countries use the Gregorian calendar for official activities.

The Gregorian calendar is based on a solar year, which is 365.242 days. That is how long it takes the earth to travel around the sun.

In the Gregorian calendar, a year has 365 ¼ days. But a day is a 24-hour period. How can a calendar adjust for a quarter of a day? Write one or two sentences for your answer.
Influential Development

Some developments are minor conveniences. Some change the world. We can learn how important a development is by asking a few questions. What is its effect on society? Does it improve people’s quality of life? How many people benefit from it?

Here are some developments made in the past 150 years. Use the questions given above to assess them. Which of these developments would you consider the most important? Write one or two sentences to explain your answer.

**Internal combustion engine**
- makes it easier to travel long distances and to transport goods
- most available in United States, Europe; least available in India, China

**Water purification and sanitation (toilets)**
- reduces death from dysentery, cholera, etc.
- most available in industrialized nations

**Generation and transmission of electricity**
- led to practical inventions, including lighting, refrigeration, radio, television, computers, the Internet
- most available in industrialized nations
Languages and Loanwords

Whenever two languages are in contact with each other for a long time, they influence each other. The most obvious influence is in vocabulary. When one culture has no word for something that comes from a different place, it often adopts the other place’s word. Such words are called loanwords. For example, basketball was invented in the United States. When other countries adopted the game, they needed a word for it, too. The easiest thing was to adopt the word basketball along with the game. But, of course, the word needed to be adapted to fit into different languages. In French it became le basket. In Japanese, it’s basuke. Turks play basketbol.

Some languages easily adopt loanwords from other languages. But some cultures resist adding foreign words. They try to develop their own terms for new ideas.

Which approach to loanwords do you think is best for a language, easy adoption or the resistance of foreign words? Write one or two sentences to explain your answer.

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History: Cause and Effect

In many ways, history is a long, long chain of cause and effect. Because a storm sank the Mongol fleet in 1274, the Mongols did not conquer Japan. Because an Italian sailor was stubborn, Europe and the Americas came into contact in 1492. Because of a German mapmaker, America was named for a later explorer, not Christopher Columbus.

Think of at least four events that changed history. Name each one, and write one or two sentences explaining why it is important.
Living National Treasures

For centuries, Japanese culture was separate from the rest of the world. Then, after 1853, Japan came into contact with other cultures. People began to replace old ways with new approaches. Many Japanese traditions began to disappear.

The Japanese government saw these traditions as important. They wanted to save their heritage. In 1950, the government created a special honor for traditional artists: “Living National Treasure.” This title is given to artists who meet certain standards. They must be outstanding in their field. Their products must be used in everyday life. And they must use time-honored techniques. People who have received this honor include potters, musicians, and actors.

Now, other countries are also starting to recognize their Living National Treasures. What criteria would you use to identify Living National Treasures in this country? Make a list of criteria. Be as detailed as you can. Then name several people who would fit your definition of Living National Treasure.
The Arts

Human beings have always had the urge to create art. Even before written history, people expressed themselves in painting and sculpture. They probably also expressed themselves in other ways, such as through music, dance, and theater.

The same thing is true of cultures around the world today. All cultures develop their own ways of expressing themselves through the arts. People may decorate their bodies in a distinctive way. They may have a special puppet theater, or musical instruments, or dance styles.

Each item listed below is an art form that developed in one culture. The country it comes from is given in parentheses. Write D for dance and music or T for theater and puppetry on the line beside each one.

____1. Bunraku (Japan)  ___7. merengue (Dominican Republic)
____2. ch’angguk (Korea)  ___8. Noh (Japan)
____3. commedia dell’arte (Italy)  ___9. raga (India)
____4. fado (Portugal)  ___10. jazz (United States)
____5. flamenco (Spain)  ___11. tango (Argentina)
____6. hula (Hawaii)  ___12. wayang kulit (Indonesia)
Geography and Human Culture

Think about the world. What one place on the entire planet is best suited for people to live? The answer is . . . nowhere. Every place has advantages and disadvantages. One place may have a great climate but be subject to earthquakes and hurricanes. Another may be safe from storms but have a large number of disease-carrying insects. Other places may be too wet, too dry, too cold, or too hot.

But people live in all these places. People live in the extreme north, where the temperature is below freezing for nine months of the year. They live in the Gobi Desert, where less than 10 cm (4 in) of rain falls every year and temperatures range from –40°C to 45°C. And they live in all the hot, cold, wet, dry, storm-swept regions in between.

In order to live in all these places, people have to adapt. They develop clothes, tools, housing, and lifestyles that fit the environment. They also change the environment. For example, in areas with low rainfall, water from rivers may be used to irrigate fields.

Think of all the ways you know of that people adapt themselves to their environment, and how they adapt the environment to themselves. List as many as you can.
Learning About Culture

The culture of a nation—any nation—is built up over time. It is shaped by many things, including physical environment and the events of history. Eventually, a unique culture develops. Many cultures have things in common. But they also have differences.

We learn the customs of our culture unconsciously, as children. We learn how to greet people, what different gestures mean, how to eat. But people who visit a different country often find they don’t understand the subtle rules of the culture. This can leave them feeling uncomfortable.

Imagine that you are making a long visit to a country with a culture very different from yours. Meals include unfamiliar foods. They are eaten with different utensils. Even though you speak the language, you often misunderstand things. You’re sure you will figure it out eventually. But right now, you keep embarrassing yourself!

What could you do to make this adjustment period easier? What attitudes will probably be most helpful? Write down as many helpful attitudes and approaches as you can think of.
Maori Place Names

When English explorers first came to New Zealand, the islands had been inhabited for centuries by the Maori. This Maori heritage can still be seen in many place names in New Zealand.

Here are some Maori words and their meanings in English. Use them to figure out the meanings of the mountain names below. Can you tell what kind of mountains these are?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maori</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>naki</td>
<td>moving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pehu</td>
<td>exploding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rangi</td>
<td>air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roto</td>
<td>lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rua</td>
<td>hole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toto</td>
<td>blood-red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tara</td>
<td>peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wera</td>
<td>burning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Zealand Mountains
1. Rangitoto ____________
2. Rotorua ____________
3. Ruapehu ____________
4. Taranaki ____________
5. Tarawera ____________
### Governments in the Pacific Region

These are some of the countries of the Pacific Region. Choose the correct government type from the box for each one. Then write the letter on the line beside each country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government Type</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. constitutional monarchy</td>
<td>__ 1. Australia __ 6. New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. federation</td>
<td>__ 2. East Timor __ 7. Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. parliamentary democracy</td>
<td>__ 3. Fiji __ 8. Samoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. republic</td>
<td>__ 5. Nauru __10. Vanuatu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Many cultures use proverbs to teach values and ethics. You may have heard the proverb, “A penny saved is a penny earned.” This is a way of saying that being thrifty is a good thing. Other virtues may also be found in proverbs: honesty, respect for parents, hard work, and so on.

Each Chinese proverb below addresses one of the virtues in the box. Read each proverb carefully. Then write the letter of the virtue that best matches the proverb on the line provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a. education</th>
<th>b. forethought</th>
<th>c. gratitude</th>
<th>d. hard work</th>
<th>e. honesty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

_1. Talk does not cook rice._
_2. Clear conscience never fears midnight knocking._
_3. Forget injuries; never forget kindesses._
_4. A sly rabbit will have three openings to its den._
_5. The man who waits for roast duck to fly into his mouth must wait a long time._
_6. Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere._
_7. Once on a tiger's back, it is hard to alight._
**Moon Festival**

In China, the Moon Festival is held in mid-autumn. At this time, the moon looks bigger than at other times of the year. One story about its origin says that a woman was punished by being banished to the moon. Her husband missed her terribly. One night, when the moon was full, he saw her shape on the surface of the moon. He ran to get cakes to offer his beloved wife. Even now, thousands of years later, people eat round cakes and gaze at the Lady in the Moon.

The Moon Festival is a time of reunion. Whenever they can, families get together. They have moon-gazing parties and eat moon cakes. These are round pastries filled with red bean paste, fruit, or jam. Other round foods are also served, such as grapefruit, pomegranates, and apples. Children make wishes on the Lady in the Moon.

What stories and ideas do you associate with the moon? Think of as many as you can, and write them down.
Many things we take for granted today were invented hundreds of years ago in China. Some were brought to the West by travelers and merchants. Some were invented later in Europe, without Chinese influence.

Decide whether or not each of these things was first invented in China. Put a checkmark beside each Chinese invention.

_ 1. cast iron       _ 10. photography
_ 2. compass        _ 11. playing cards
_ 3. fireworks       _ 12. refrigerator
_ 4. gunpowder       _ 13. seismograph
_ 5. matches         _ 14. sewing machine
_ 6. movable type    _ 15. thermometer
_ 7. multistage rockets _ 16. umbrella
_ 8. paper           _ 17. wheelbarrow
_ 9. paper money     _ 18. yo-yo
Korean Alphabet: Hangul

Until 1446, Koreans used Chinese characters to write their language. The Chinese writing system uses a different character for every word. This makes it hard to learn. Korea’s upper class knew how to read and write, but most people did not.

Korea’s King Sejong decided to do something about it. He developed a simple alphabet for the Korean language.

Today, King Sejong’s alphabet is known as Hangul. Of the twenty-eight letters in the original alphabet, twenty-four are still in use today. Most Koreans are now able to read.

English uses the same alphabet as many other languages. But English spelling is confusing. Often, words with very different sounds are spelled the same way—for example, tough, cough, and dough. Imagine that you are going to design a new alphabet for writing English. How would you go about it? What would your first steps be? Write one or two sentences explaining how you would start.
Key Dates in Korea’s History

Here are some key events in Korea’s history. Choose the correct date from the box for each event. Write the date on the line next to the event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2333 B.C.E.</th>
<th>1392</th>
<th>1945</th>
<th>1950</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1292</td>
<td>1910</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>1953</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Korean War ends
2. Syngman Rhee becomes first president of South Korea; Kim Il Sung becomes premier of North Korea
3. China conquers Korea
4. Korea annexed by Japan
5. Korea is divided along 38th parallel
6. Japan invades Korea for the first time
7. first Korean kingdom is founded
8. Korean War begins with Communist invasion of South Korea
Matsuo Basho, who lived from about 1644 to 1694, is considered one of Japan’s greatest literary figures. The son of a low-ranking samurai, Basho became a samurai himself. When his master died, Basho resigned from service. He spent much of the rest of his life studying Zen Buddhism and writing poetry. Basho is credited with developing the modern haiku form. Haiku are short unrhymed poems, usually no more than seventeen syllables long. They try to capture the sensation of a moment, as in this poem by Basho:

Old pond.
A frog leaps into
the water of sound.

Basho’s poetry brought a new spirituality and richness to haiku. He described nature simply, with lightness.

Basho once said, “Learn about pines from the pine, and about bamboo from the bamboo.” What do you think he meant by this? Write one or two sentences in explanation.
Japanese arts take many forms. Some began as folk entertainments. Others developed out of the Zen Buddhism tradition. Some are considered *shikigaku*, or “ceremonial art.” Others are simply entertainment.

Some well-known Japanese arts are listed below. Match each one with the correct description.

_ 1. bunraku_  
_ 2. ikebana_  
_ 3. kabuki_  
_ 4. origami_  
_ 5. sumi-e_  
_ 6. ukiyo-e_

- a. flower arranging
- b. serious drama in which men play all roles
- c. woodblock prints
- d. puppet theater
- e. paper folding
- f. ink painting