

FRENCH HERITAGE CURRICULUM ELEMENTARY

Thematic overview

The themes that were chosen for our pilot program at NYFACS are as follow:

1. Roots and Identity
2. Habitat
3. Culinary arts
4. Literature, arts and folklore
5. Festivities and traditions

These themes can be explored as a means to study the language in many different ways, using songs, debates, readings, writing, drawing, school trips, films... The goal is to promote French literacy, develop communicative skills, and have children discover the many cultures of Francophonie through their own cultural heritages. As in high school, culture-based, differentiated pedagogy is implemented, and authentic materials used as often as possible.

Each theme has been organized into 3 or more project-units that can be used throughout the year with suggested age groups.

Each project-unit should be divided into 6 lessons of 2 hours.

The following table sums up how themes are divided into project-units:

THEME	AGE	PROJECT CONTENT
ROOTS AND IDENTITY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Me, my family and my friends 	5-7	<p>In this unit children learn the basics of communication in French: introducing oneself, presenting and describing one's family, relatives and friends.</p> <p><u>Final task:</u> A class exhibition of students' portraits, through drawings and photographs of themselves, their families and friends.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My country, my origins 	7-9	<p>students explore parts of their heritage through different geographical origins. They are introduced to several French-speaking countries and their basic cultural characteristics.</p> <p><u>Final task:</u> Students produce a “Happy Families” card game based on French-speaking countries and cultures.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living together 	9-11	<p>students learn to express agreement and disagreement, working around the concepts of difference, respect and tolerance that form the basis of Francophonie.</p> <p><u>Final task:</u> students organize a school event with posters, works of art, placards or banners to promote peace and democracy</p>
CULINARY ARTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foods and spices 	5-7	<p>Students learn to express taste, likes and dislikes through the study of simple food taken from different French-speaking regions: fruit, vegetables, spices, fish and meats.</p> <p><u>Final task:</u> the class creates a big “salad bowl” in which each student is represented by an ingredient specific to his heritage culture.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market of Francophonie 	7-9	<p>Here students learn about recipes from various francophone regions, studying proportions, measures, money transactions and culinary habits.</p> <p><u>Final task:</u> students recreate a francophone market where they sell and buy the ingredients needed for realizing one or more francophone traditional recipes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sitting down to eat 	9-11	<p>Students study social culinary habits from various French-speaking countries, learning different manners, polite requests as well as expressing wishes.</p> <p><u>Final Task:</u> Through role-play, students reenact the same dinner at a restaurant but in different countries, changing food, social and culinary habits in the process.</p>
HABITAT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home 	5-7	<p>Students learn how to position themselves in their immediate surroundings, discover different francophone homes and how to describe theirs.</p>

		<u>Final task:</u> Students organize a virtual visit of their homes using a map and miniature models
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environment 	7-9	Through the study of weather, climates, and landscapes, students learn about the flora and fauna of different French speaking countries <u>Final task:</u> students realize an animated movie about climate change (using clay or drawings)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Going places 	9-11	Students learn about the architecture and monuments of various French speaking countries <u>Final task:</u> students realize a travel guide to a francophone country/or to their own city, neighborhood
LITTERATURE, ARTS AND FOLKLORE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery rhymes and songs 	5-7	Children study nursery rhymes and songs from various French-speaking countries <u>Final task:</u> students illustrate the story of a song
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proverbs, tales and proverbs 	7-9	Here students learn several francophone proverbs and traditional tales <u>Final tasks:</u> Students put a tale on stage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legends, myths and folklore 	9-11	Students learn about some traditional francophone myths, magic and other folklore. <u>Final task:</u> Students write an illustrated short story based on the narrative of “Kirikou”
FESTIVITIES AND TRADITIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carnival 	5-7	Children study various francophone events and festivities by celebrating them during the school year. <u>Final task:</u> Children produce Caribbean carnival masks for Mardi Gras
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional objects and Crafts 	7-9	Students examines the difference between industrial and traditional craftsmanship from various French-speaking countries <u>Final task:</u> students make objects or works of art using recycled material, for an auction sale during the Fête of Francophonie
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francophone fashion show 	9-11	Children learn about garments and clothing habits from different francophone countries. <u>Final task:</u> Students organize a francophone Fashion show wearing traditional clothes from their home countries.