

5 TIPS

for Making a Hometown Summer Feel Like an International Holiday



Not all of us get to travel the world on a summer holiday. For most of us, summer consists of cookouts, campouts, day camps, and road trips. But adding a little international flair for the family is easy with these simple and educational tips.

When Global is Local

Check in your city or town for culturally historic neighborhoods – such as a China Town, Korea Town, or Little Italy – and bring your kids to pay a visit to merchants and cultural centers in these communities. You can also explore if your city or town has a “sister city” in another country. If so, work with your kids to explore the city online and see if you can discover how and when it became a sister to your city.

Spice up your Cookout

Bring a new dynamic to the summer cookout by introducing foods from around the world into the mix. Even if your town doesn't have an international market, most grocery stores have an international aisle with foods from around the world. Try different side dishes and desserts to go along with the hamburgers and hotdogs this summer. Go online and print out a brief description of each dish to share with friends and family during the meal.

Currency Exchange

Many large banks and airports can do foreign currency exchanges. Bring your kids with some of their allowance money to exchange their U.S. dollars for Euros, Pounds, Pesos, Yen, Canadian dollars, and other available currency.

- Ask them why the value changes between currencies after the exchange
- Go with them online to learn how currency exchange rates work
- Help them figure out if every day items like soda, candy, fruit, shoes, etc, are more expensive or less expensive based on each country

Vacation Treasure Hunt

During long vacation drives, instead of your teens and tweens playing video games on the smartphone, give them an online vacation treasure hunt to pass the time. Searches could be as simple as:

- Finding the most popular vacation destination in five countries
- Learning what holidays take place during the summer in different countries
- Seeing when other countries have their Independence Days, and the history behind them

Museum Adventures

Check with your local history, natural science, and art museums to see if they have exhibits representing different countries. Traveling exhibits often have an international perspective and can help your kids get out of the hot sun into cool museums with even cooler art or artifacts to explore.

To see how other kids experienced international cultures, visit CrashTheClassroom.org.

