

The background of the cover is a light yellow gradient. Scattered across the page are several stylized, light green leaf motifs, each consisting of two leaves on a short stem. These motifs are positioned in the top left, top center, top right, middle right, bottom right, bottom center, and bottom left areas.

MULTICULTURAL INFORMATION QUESTS

Instant Research Lessons, Grades 5–8

Marie E. Rodgers

**Multicultural
Information
Quests**

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Multicultural Information Quests

Instant Research Lessons, Grades 5–8

Marie E. Rodgers

2000
Libraries Unlimited, Inc.
and Its Division
Teacher Ideas Press
Englewood, Colorado

Dedicated to Brian, to Joe, to Jeannie, and to Sam.

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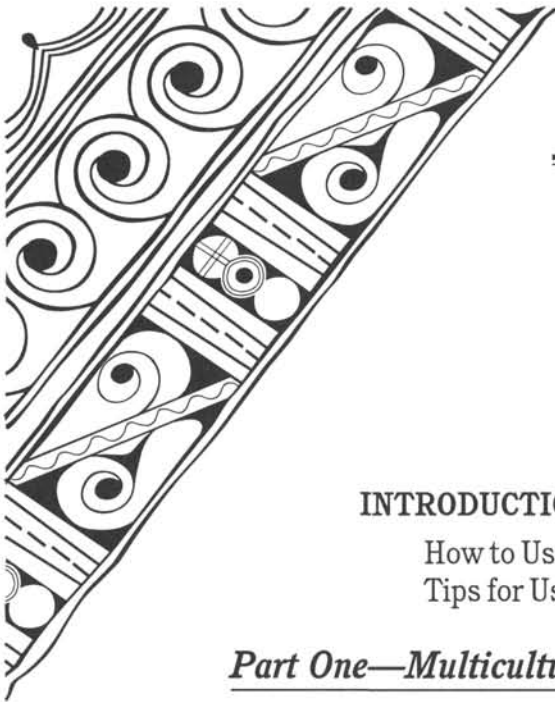
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Introduction

How to Use This Book

This is a book of multicultural treasure hunts designed for use by teachers and librarians. There are several benefits of using treasure hunts or searches. The searches in this book are designed to

- develop students' awareness of cultures other than their own,
- promote student research that requires using books other than an encyclopedia,
- provide students with annotated reference lists that may be used for their own research projects,
- promote research as an educational activity that can be fun, and
- enhance the curriculum.

Students should be given copies of both reference lists and searches. They should then use the books on the reference lists to find the answers in the search. With a little imagination, educators can find many more uses for these activities. Here are a few suggestions:

- Search projects can be used to introduce students to a topic.
- Reference lists can be used independently for other assignments.
- Thematic searches can be used to celebrate or honor various events in the school year, such as Women's History Month or the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Teachers can use these searches as part of a unit or as an independent assignment.
- Librarians can present a book talk about a reference list before students complete the searches, thus promoting the library's reference collection.
- Teachers and librarians can select questions or searches for "Jeopardy!"-style competitions.
- Teachers and librarians can use the searches to reinforce how to use a reference book or an index or how to locate information in the library.
- These searches provide an opportunity for collaboration between teachers and librarians.
- Questions can be incorporated into a bulletin board for a contest or used for Research Questions of the Week.

Tips for Using These Searches

These searches are designed to reinforce or enhance a particular topic within the curriculum. Most chapters contain several searches. This was done to accommodate the curriculum needs of teachers and librarians. For example, one teacher may wish to focus on the Holocaust, while another may wish to focus on the immigrant experience in America. Others may wish to provide students with extra assignments. (Those who like "extra credit" assignments will find these search projects useful.)

It is best to begin by reminding students how to locate books and how to use an index. It is also a good idea to demonstrate the process by doing one or two questions with the class to get them started. Once students have done a few searches, they will know exactly what to do in the future.

Not all libraries will have every book on a reference list. Answers can be provided in other ways; multiple choice, scrambled words, or clues can be given. In some cases, photographs or pictures can be used. Ready-made bulletin board materials often supply information as well. I have incorporated some information in bulletin boards. For example, a search on Black History Month may be used in conjunction with an informative bulletin board that provides answers to some questions. This is an option I actually prefer.

These searches provide excellent opportunities for using cooperative learning techniques. Depending on the size of a class, searches can be done with two to four students in a group. Having each group begin with a different question avoids having the entire class look for the same answer in the same place at one time. Another option is to use two or three searches at one time. Mix or match search questions to suit your needs.

Chapters Two through Eight coincide with the Dewey decimal system. For example, Chapter Three, Holidays, Customs, and Folklore, coincides with Dewey's 300 classification. However, it should be noted that not all books on the reference lists for these chapters will be limited to one classification.

Finally, *Multicultural Information Quests* should be viewed as a collection of more searches than you could ever use in one school year. My experience with classes scheduled for twice weekly blocks of time was that one search a month worked very well. Happy searching!

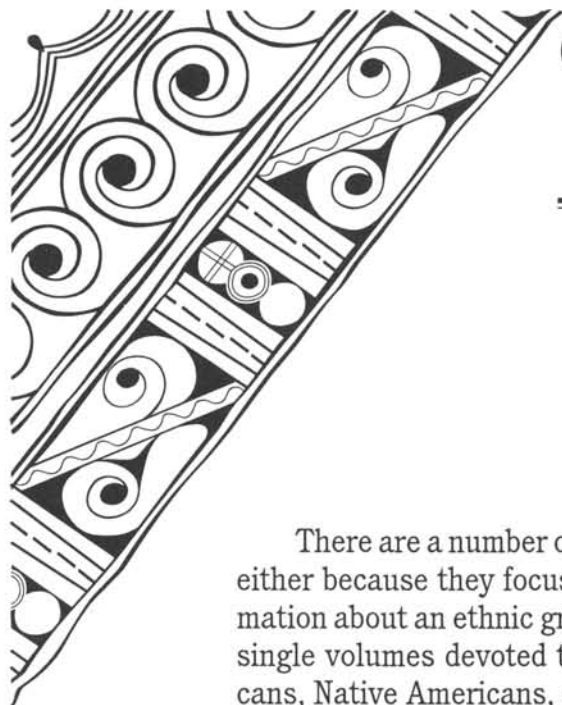
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Part One

Multicultural Searches by Subject

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Chapter One

Firsts

There are a number of books of firsts. The works listed here were chosen either because they focus on an ethnic group or because they provide information about an ethnic group. As one can see by examining the list, there are single volumes devoted to the firsts achieved by Hispanics, African Americans, Native Americans, and women. There are, in fact, several volumes devoted to firsts achieved by women and African Americans. Because there are no current books of firsts for other ethnic groups, other references are used. There are two searches for multicultural firsts. The reference list may be used for both.

Reference List for Multicultural Firsts

Baron, Deborah G., and Susan B. Gall, eds. *Asian American Chronology*. New York: UXL, 1996. 173p. \$39.00. ISBN 0-8103-9692-0.

Milestones in Asian American history are recorded here using a calendar arrangement. Spanning time from prehistory to 1995, entries range from a few lines to one page. Coverage includes topics such as immigration, world wars, and contributions made by Asian Americans from more than 20 countries of origin. There are more than 90 black-and-white illustrations and maps. In addition, boxes highlight important, relevant information. Cross-references, boxes with related charts and statistics, and an index provide easy access. The section Further Reading lists sources on Asian Americans in general as well as sources for specific groups. Recommended for grade 5 and above.

Bruno, Leonard C. *Science and Technology Firsts*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1997. 636p. \$86.00. ISBN 0-7876-0256-6.

Twelve chapters relating to various fields of scientific endeavor such as astronomy, biology, mathematics, and transportation have been arranged in chronological order. Entries are one paragraph in length and begin with the year of discovery or breakthrough in boldface and provide details. There are also several black-and-white photographs and illustrations. Cross-references exist only within a particular chapter; however, an extensive index helps readers locate information pertaining to more than one area of science. There is also a bibliography. Written for students and general readers, this work is also appropriate for science buffs in grade 5 and above.

Kane, Joseph Nathan. *Famous First Facts*. 5th ed. Revised and expanded. New York: H. W. Wilson, 1997. 1,350p. \$80.00. ISBN 0-8242-0930-3.

A popular ready reference book, *Famous First Facts* consists of more than 9,000 entries of what is listed as happenings, discoveries, and inventions in American history. Entries—arranged alphabetically by subject—are brief. One of the special features of this work is its indexes. Not only do they make the book easily accessible but they allow readers to find information by year, days of the month, geographical locations, and personal name. The work is also cross-referenced. Recommended for grade 5 and above.

Kanellos, Nicolás. *Hispanic Firsts: 500 Years of Extraordinary Achievements*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1997. 372p. \$44.95. ISBN 0-7816-0517-4.

Kanellos, an award-winning expert in the field of Hispanic studies, has compiled another excellent reference. Contributions and achievements have been compiled chronologically according to fields of endeavor. Chapters include Art and Design, and Film, Labor, and Religion, as well as a Timeline, Calendar of Firsts, Bibliography, Index by Year, and General Index. There are several black-and-white photographs and illustrations. Kanellos has based his work on the premise that Hispanics have contributed greatly to U.S. civilization and that Hispanics are pioneers not only for their achievements but also for overcoming obstacles in American society that barred their success. Kanellos' work is informative and appealing; it is an excellent resource and fun to browse. Recommended for grade 5 and above.

Smith, Jessie Carney. *Black Firsts: 2,000 Years of Extraordinary Achievement*. Detroit: Visible Ink, 1994. 529p. \$16.95. ISBN 0-8103-9490-1.

Smith's work is well respected, and this volume is an outstanding example. The work is arranged by topic; there are 15 in all, including civil rights and protest, religion, sports, and writers. Categories within a subject topic are used as well. For example, under Arts and Entertainment there are categories for film, music, and theater. Firsts are arranged chronologically by year in each category. Sources are listed for each entry. Included as well are

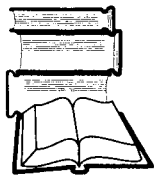
several black-and-white photographs and tables. Dates of birth and death of achievers are also listed. Special features include a foldout time line, a month-by-month calendar of firsts, and an index by year. There are cross-references and a keyword index. This is an excellent resource for research and fun to browse. Recommended for grade 5 and above.

Swisher, Karen Gayton, and AnCita Benally. *Native North American Firsts*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1997. 263p. \$48.55. ISBN 0-7876-0518-2.

Beginning with a month-by-month Calendar of Firsts and a Timeline, this work is arranged alphabetically by topic. Included are Education, Literature, Religious Life, Sciences, and many others. Under each topic there are also various subheadings. For example, under Military there are sections on the Civil War, World War I, and so on. Within each section, entries are listed chronologically. Also included are several black-and-white photographs, a bibliography, an index by year, and a general index. As a result, this work is very accessible. Overall, this is an excellent reference. Appropriate for grade 6 and above.

Zilboorg, Caroline, ed. *Women's Firsts*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1996. 564p. \$48.55. ISBN 0-7876-0151-9.

A reference work designed to highlight women's achievements from ancient times to the present, this work is arranged by field of endeavor. Included are activism, literature, military service, science, and religion. Coverage is international, and more than 2,000 achievements are detailed here. Within each field of endeavor, achievements are listed chronologically with a citation for the source. Special features of this work include a Time Line of Events in Women's History and a bibliography. An index by day and month, index by year, and a general index provide easy access. Recommended for grade 5 and above.



Search for Multicultural Firsts

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Use the sources on the Reference List for Multicultural Firsts to find the answers to these questions.

1. What scientific first was achieved by German American physicist Albert A. Michelson in 1907?

2. Name the first Jewish college in America. Where and when was it founded?

3. Which scientific first in the field of communications was achieved by American inventor Chester Carlson in 1937?

4. Which first was achieved by Kristi Yamaguchi in 1992?

5. What was the first book by an African American writer to be chosen for the Book of the Month Club?

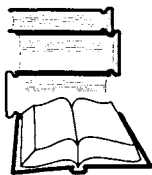
6. In 1969, actor Ricardo Montalban achieved a first as president of *Nostros*. What was the purpose of this group?

7. Who was the first Jewish person known to immigrate to America?

8. Lt. Everett Alvarez, Jr., became the longest held prisoner of war in United States history. What first is also part of Alvarez's Vietnam experience?

9. Constance Garnett achieved her first as a result of learning something while recuperating from a difficult childbirth. What did she learn? What was her first?

10. Which first was achieved by Keely Smith, a Cherokee, in 1958?



Search for More Multicultural Firsts

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Use the Reference List for Multicultural Firsts to find the answers to the following questions.

1. Which first was achieved by Annie Montague Alexander in 1909?

2. Which firsts were achieved by Alfred Wong in 1976?

3. Which first was achieved by author Hannah Adams?

4. In what year was the first book by a Jewish author published in the United States?

5. Which first was achieved by Fernando Valenzuela on November 11, 1981?

6. A significant first in the U.S. military occurred for Native American Army scout Corux-techodish in August 1869. What was it?

7. Which first was achieved by writer N. Scott Momaday in 1969 for his work, *House Made of Dawn*?

8. Which first was achieved by Marjorie Stewart Joyner?

9. Which first was achieved by John Aiso on September 25, 1953?

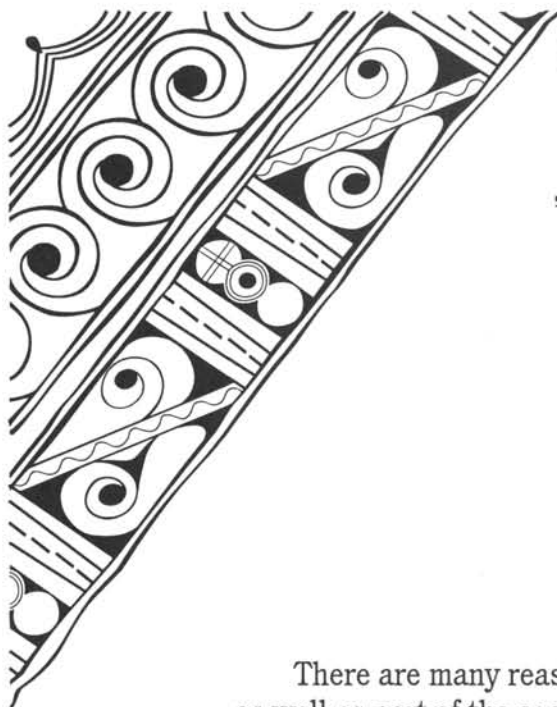
10. Which first in the field of medicine was achieved by French American surgeon Alexis Carrel in 1912?

Answer Key for Multicultural Firsts

1. In Bruno. Michelson was the first American to win a Nobel prize.
2. In Kane. Maimonides College was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on October 28, 1867.
3. In Bruno. Carlson applied for a patent for his invention, the “electro photocopy” machine, the first copy machine.
4. In Baron and Gall. She was the first Asian American to win an Olympic gold medal for women’s figure skating.
5. In Smith. Richard Wright’s *Native Son*.
6. In Kanellos. *Nostros*, a group of Hispanic actors, strives to promote positive images of Hispanics in television and film.
7. In Kane. Jacob Barsimson arrived on August 22, 1654.
8. In Kanellos. He was also the first U.S. serviceman shot down over North Vietnam.
9. In Zilboorg. She learned Russian and translated major Russian writers’ works into English.
10. In Swisher and Benally. Smith was the first Native American woman to win a Grammy.

Answer Key for More Multicultural Firsts

1. In Zilboorg. She established the first national history museum in the United States in Berkeley, California.
2. In Baron and Gall. Wong was the first Asian Pacific American appointed U.S. marshal of the Supreme Court and the first Asian Pacific American in the White House Secret Service.
3. In Kane. She was the first woman to make writing her profession.
4. In Kane. The first book by a Jewish author was published in 1719.
5. In Kanellos. Valenzuela was the first Latino and first rookie to win the Cy Young award.
6. In Swisher and Benally. He was the first Native American to be awarded the Medal of Honor.
7. In Swisher and Benally. Momaday was the first Native American to win the Pulitzer prize.
8. In Smith. Joyner was the first African American to patent a permanent waving machine.
9. In Baron and Gall. Aiso was the first person of Nisei origin to become a judge in the continental United States.
10. In Bruno. Carrel produced the first true cell culture.



Chapter Two

Religion and Mythology

There are many reasons to study religion. It is part of cultural tradition as well as part of the social history of a group. Religion can relate to the literature of a culture as well. Many myths and legends are based on or are linked in some way to religious or spiritual beliefs of the world's cultures.

Reference List for Religions

The questions in this search focus on the unusual or little-known facts about various belief systems. The following bibliography lists works with information on the major religions of the world; a number of the works provide information on little-known religions, cultural movements, and religions of antiquity.

Browning, W. R. F. *A Dictionary of the Bible*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996. 420p. \$25.00. ISBN 0-192-80060-4.

Browning's guide focuses on books of the Christian Bible as well as people, places, and ideas related to the Bible. More than 2,000 entries are provided and refer to the New Revised Standard Version. Brief essays on the land of the Bible and names for God are included in the introduction. Also included are a List of Abbreviations, Books of the Bible, Important Dates in Biblical History, Select Bibliography, and Maps. Well researched and clearly written, this work is intended for readers of all ages, so it is appropriate for students in grade 5 and above.

Bunson, Matthew. *The Pope Encyclopedia: An A to Z of the Holy See*. New York: Crown Trade Paperbacks, 1995. 390p. \$17.00. ISBN 0-517-88256-6.

More than 2,000 entries provide details on the lives of the popes, including original names, dates of birth and death, and election histories. Information on other topics related to the papacy has been included as well; topics include the Swiss Guard, Good Friday, and Vatican locations. Arrangement is alphabetical, and black-and-white illustrations have been included. Bunson writes in a lively, straightforward style. Of special interest to anyone studying or researching the papacy, this work is also appealing to anyone who is browsing. Appropriate for grade 6 and above.

Fischer-Schreiber, Ingrid, et al. *The Encyclopedia of Eastern Philosophy and Religion*. Boston: Shambhala, 1994. 468p. \$25.00. ISBN 0-87773-980-3.

Limited to four Eastern philosophies—Buddhism, Taoism, Zen, and Hinduism—this work is intended to familiarize the general reader with terminologies and concepts of these religions. The work is arranged alphabetically. The letters *B*, *H*, *T*, or *Z* identify each entry as Buddhist, Hindu, Taoist, or Zen. Included is a pronunciation key, a Zen lineage chart, and a bibliography of primary and secondary sources for each of the four religions. Written for adults, this work is also recommended for grade 7 and above.

Gaer, Joseph. *How the Great Religions Began*. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1981. 424p. \$6.95. ISBN 0-396-07985-7.

Gaer's work, a classic originally published in 1929, is still available in paperback. What makes this work so appealing is Gaer's thoughtful, straightforward approach to his subject. The work is arranged in three sections: Book One, The Religions of India; Book Two, The Religions of China and Japan; and Book Three, The Advance of One God. Gaer presents such information as the founder of the religion, date and place of origin, sacred books, and number of followers (updated). In addition, life stories of founders of religions are provided. Gaer's narrative style simplifies the complexities of his subject and should be appealing to students in grade 5 and above.

Gross, David C. *1,001 Questions and Answers About Judaism*. Revised ed. New York: Hippocrene Books, 1990. 322p. \$9.95. ISBN 0-87052-626-X.

Gross' work consists of 10 chapters arranged by topic. Personal Life, The Synagogue, The Sabbath, Jewish History, and Israel are a few. Additionally, there are 100 questions and answers for the 1990s, a bibliography, a glossary, and an index. The question-and-answer format makes this work interesting to browse. However, Gross has provided readers with a vast amount of information. His work serves as a reference and handbook for anyone interested in Judaism. The index makes the book easily accessible. Recommended for grade 5 and above.

Littleton, C. Scott, gen. ed. *Eastern Wisdom*. New York: Henry Holt, 1996. 176p. \$30.00. ISBN 0-8050-4647-X.

While this work is not comprehensive—it limits coverage to five major Eastern religions—it is appealing. The text explains practices of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shinto. More than 100 color illustrations and maps add to the appeal of this work. Festivals and holidays, various sects, history, and modern practice are explained in this work. The explanations clarify ideas that may seem complicated in religious texts. Littleton also offers explanations of the impact of these religions on one another and on culture. Recommended for grade 6 and above.

Nanji, Azimli. *The Muslim Almanac*. Detroit: Gale Research, 1995. 581p. \$107.00. ISBN 0-8103-8924-X.

The goal of this work is to provide an in-depth look at various aspects of Islam. Arranged in 12 parts, topics covered include Beginnings and Foundations of Islam, Diversity in Islam, Islamic Law, Literary Expressions in Islam, and Contemporary Developments in Islam. Included are several black-and-white illustrations, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index. Appendixes include Islamic Calendar, Bosnia Herzegovina, and Muslim Life-Cycle. Written for students, this is a good source for anyone interested in learning more about Islam. Recommended for grade 5 and above.

Nielson, Jr., Niels C., et al. *Religions of the World*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993. 536p. \$60.00. ISBN 0-312-05023-2.

This volume describes principal doctrines and issues of religions from antiquity to modern times. The introduction discusses religious traditions, calendar rituals, and cultural traditions. There is also an explanation of how to use the book. The work is arranged in eight sections; discussions include primal religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, religions of Japan and China, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Special features include time lines, comparison boxes that enable readers to compare and contrast aspects of different religions, and a glossary. There are also black-and-white photographs and illustrations, an extensive bibliography, and an index. Recommended for students in grade 8 and above.

Robinson, Francis. *Atlas of the Islamic World Since 1500*. New York: Facts on File, 1992. 238p. \$45.00. ISBN 0-87196-629-8.

According to Robinson, more than 20 percent of the world population practices Islam. Robinson's narrative begins in 1500 in Part One and traces Muslim history through the twentieth century. The work includes 53 maps, 302 illustrations—almost 200 in color—a chronology, and a list of rulers. Other special features include political cartoons, Belief and Practice, and Islam in the West. Part Two consists of three topics: Religious Life, Arts of Islam, and Society and the Modern World. The book provides a list of maps, a glossary, a bibliography, a gazetteer, and an index. Recommended for grade 6 and above.

Snelling, John. *The Buddhist Handbook: A Complete Guide to Buddhist Schools, Teaching, Practice and History*. Rochester, VT: Inner Traditions, 1991. 537p. \$14.95. ISBN 0-89281-319-9.

Snelling has compiled a handbook that discusses not only various aspects of Buddhism but also provides information on the Buddha and background on how Buddhism spread from India to the rest of the world. There are six parts to the book, some of which also cover basic teachings and the spread and practice of Buddhism in the West. Appendixes offer useful addresses, major Buddhist festivals, and a section titled Further Reading. A useful resource written for adults but also appropriate for students in grade 8 and above.