

Short, K. (2016)

Cultural X-Rays

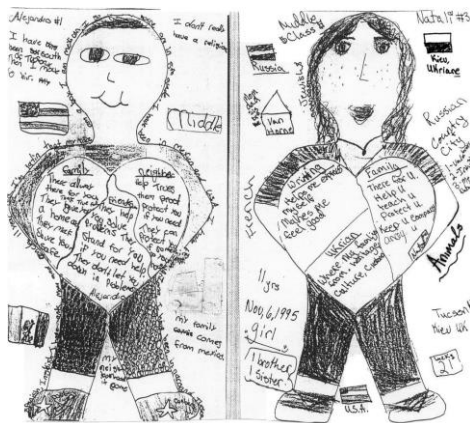
Cultural x-rays help students recognize their many cultural identities, develop understandings of culture, and raise awareness of how and why culture matters to them.

Materials

- Cultural x-ray (outline of a body with a large heart inside)
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Children's literature in which characters explore their cultural identities, particularly books where characters explore multiple identities.

Procedures

- After reading and discussing picture books in which the characters explore their cultural identities, discuss the aspects of culture that influence each character's life and thought. You may want to create cultural x-rays for specific characters from these books that are particularly engaging for children.
- Each student creates a personal cultural x-ray highlighting what is outside as well as inside his/her cultural being. Students respond to these questions: What am I? What is important to me? What do I look like?
 - On the outside, students create labels to describe the behavior, appearance, and aspects of their identities that others can observe or easily determine (age, family, gender, language, religion, family composition, places they have lived).
 - On the heart shape inside the x-ray, students place their values and beliefs that they hold in their hearts that may not be evident to others around them. Questions students can ask: What values have I gotten from my family? What are my beliefs?
 - Then students use a mirror to fill in the body shape, reflecting their actual physical appearance.



Cultural X-rays of Personal Cultural Identity, Alejandro and Natali, 5th grade.