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FRIDA KAHLO
DIEGO RIVERA
& MEXICAN
MODERNISM

THE JACQUES AND NATASHA GELMAN COLLECTION

DENVER
art
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FOOD AND FUN!



Diego Rivera, *Calla Lily Vendor*, 1943. Oil on Masonite; 59.1 x 47.2 in. (150 x 120 cm). The Vergel Foundation and MondoMostre in collaboration with the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes y Literatura (INBAL). © 2020 Banco de Mexico Diego Rivera Frida Kahlo Museums Trust, Mexico, D.F./ Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo by Gerardo Suter

INSPIRED BY:

Calla Lily Vendor and Sunflowers by Diego Rivera.

TOPIC:

Exploring national identities and Indigenous (the original or earliest known inhabitants of an area) histories and helping kids understand a few components of national identity.

RATIONALE:

Learning about, understanding, and appreciating diverse cultures is an essential component of 21st-century education.

RESOURCES INCLUDE:

FOR FACILITATORS:

- A How-to facilitate guide including information about the book recommendation, sample prompting conversation questions and two activity extensions. Guide includes complementary links for background research.
- High resolution images of the artwork
- One student worksheet
- Optional Recipe Card

FOR KIDS:

- Optional Recipe Card

HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGE

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Part of exploring the Denver Art Museum exhibition *Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, and Mexican Modernism: From the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection* is studying many aspects of Mexican culture. These artworks by Diego Rivera express national identity through the depiction and celebration of everyday life in Mexico. Street markets abound in Mexico, and there you will find flowers, much like Diego Rivera has shown in his painting *Calla Lily Vendor*, where flowers are being sold. Food is also an important part of culture and the street markets. Imagine rows of overflowing colorful flowers and delicious-smelling food and think about what life may have been like in Mexico a century ago.



Diego Rivera, *Sunflowers*, 1943. Oil on canvas; 35.4 x 51.2 in. (90 x 130 cm). The Vergel Foundation and MondoMostre in collaboration with the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes y Literatura (INBAL). © 2020 Banco de Mexico Diego Rivera Frida Kahlo Museums Trust, Mexico, D.F./ Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo by Gerardo Suter.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- What do you think culture is?
- What are things that make up someone's culture? How is Rivera focusing on Mexican culture? Who is he depicting in these paintings? What cultural values might he be expressing?
- Have you tried a food that originated in another country or culture? How about a food from a country or region that you or someone in your family has lived in?
- How do these foods represent that country or culture?
- Do you have special recipes that are part of your family traditions and perhaps part of a larger culture?
- After sharing responses, have kids draw or write about the food they would like to try.

DIG DEEPER *(helpful links)*

 [Defining Culture](#)

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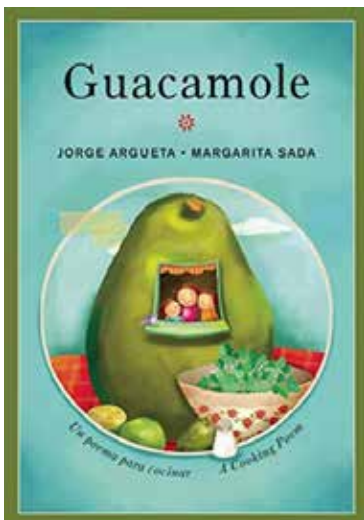
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BOOK RECOMMENDATION



Food can be a great way of introducing or celebrating different cultures. There are distinctive and unique foods in all cultures! It's validating to share and celebrate your own food traditions, which can foster understanding when we learn about others' customs. This gives kids a chance to reflect on how their eating habits reflect their own culture, and it promotes inclusivity of other cultures.

Guacamole: Un poema para cocinar / A Cooking Poem, written by Jorge Argueta and illustrated by Margarita Sada, celebrates Mexican culture through food. The book playfully explores guacamole, a typical Mexican and Aztec dish sometimes referred to as "green gold." It's also about the pleasure of making something delicious to eat for people who are special.

CHECK IT OUT!

WATCH & LISTEN

ACTIVITY EXTENTION

Interview a family member or friend who likes to cook and write down their favorite recipe.

RECIPE CARD

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- What is your favorite food? Do you know where the recipe originated or was developed?
- What types of foods have you seen and/or tasted at celebrations? Are these foods unique to your family or your cultural traditions?
- Share a time you have helped make a favorite food. What did you make? What do you remember about making it?
- Have you ever tried avocados or guacamole, a fruit and dish well-loved in Mexico? Are there foods grown in different parts of the world or the country that you have tried?
- Do you know someone from a culture that is different from yours? When you compare your family's foods and eating customs to theirs, how are they the same? How do they differ?
- Have kids draw or write about the food they would like to try and the story of celebration it tells, either about them or the culture it is from.
- How is celebrating culture also celebrating people?