

Books

Unit 2 - Mexico and Grains

A Taste of the Mexican Market by Nancy Maria Grande Tabor. (Charlesbridge, 1996. Bilingual, paperback.)

Come along on a trip to the Mexican market. Along the way you can compare with, count, and learn about different cultures and customs. From bunches of hanging bananas and braids of garlic to pyramids of melons and baskets of sweet cheese, this market is full of fun and surprises.

The Bakery Lady by Pat Mora. (Pinata Books, 2001. Bilingual, hardcover.)

Monica spends her life around a bakery—not just because she likes the sweets, but also because she loves her grandparents, the baker and the bakery lady. She watches the bustle of la panaderia, and she knows that she will one day be the baker.

* *Bread, Bread, Bread* by Ann Morris. (Mulberry, 1993. Paperback.)

Celebrate the different kinds of bread and how it may be enjoyed all over the world.

Bread is for Eating by David and Phillis Gershator. (Henry Holt & Co., 1998. Bilingual, paperback.)

This book celebrates bread and everyone who works so hard to make it. The rhythmic, bilingual text introduces readers to Spanish words through song while rich, vibrant paintings—reminiscent of Guatemalan folk art—depict a variety of people and breads.

Everybody Bakes Bread by Nora Dooley. (Carolrhoda Books, 1991. Paperback.)

Dooley paints the picture of a warm, welcoming, multicultural community, highlighting their differences by exploring the different types of breads they make.

Everybody Brings Noodles by Norah Dooley. (Carolrhoda Books, 2002. Paperback.)

At a neighborhood celebration, neighbors from many different places bring their favorite noodle dish.

Everybody Cooks Rice by Norah Dooley. (First Avenue editions, 1991. Paperback.)

A child is sent to find a younger brother at dinnertime. As each family invites her into their home, Carrie notices that they have something in common—they are all cooking rice for dinner! But each family cooks their own special style of rice.

Family Pictures by Carmen Garza. (Children's Book Press, 1990. Bilingual, paperback.)

A story of Carmen Lomas Garza's childhood in a traditional Hispanic community in South Texas: celebrating birthdays, making tamales, finding a hammerhead shark on the beach, picking cactus, going to a fair in Mexico, and confiding to her sister her dreams of becoming an artist.

Jalapeno Bagels by Natasha Wing. (Atheneum Books, 1996. Hardcover.)

For International Day at school, Pablo wants to bring something that reflects the cultures of both his parents.

The Pinata Maker by George Ancona. (Harcourt, 1994. Paperback.)

Children visit a Mexican village to meet an old man who makes beautiful pinatas, puppets, and masks for parties and festivals.

Mama Provi and the Pot of Rice by Sylvia Rosa-Casanova. (Aladdin, 2001. Hardcover.)

When her granddaughter Lucy is sick, Mama Provi makes a big pot of arroz con pollo for her and sets off on the journey from her first-floor apartment to Lucy's eighth-floor home in the same building. On each floor, Mama Provi trades a bit of her rice with a different neighbor, receiving a new type of food each time.

* recommended other books to use

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Moon Cakes to Maize: Delicious World Folktales by Norma J. Livo. (Fulcrum Publishing, 1999. Paperback.)

Using food as a connecting thread, Livo has collected and edited legends, fables, rhymes, and traditional folktales from cultures worldwide. Each chapter ends with “Food for Thought”—primarily research, writing, and drawing activities to extend the experience of the stories.

Sip, Slurp, Soup, Soup Caldo, Caldo, Caldo by Diane Gonzales Bertrand. (Pinata Books, 1996. Bilingual, hardcover.)

Mama and the family create a delicious soup/caldo that represents the ultimate in comfort food. Papa takes the children to buy tortillas, and the whole event turns into a fiesta.

* *The Tortilla Factory* by Gary Paulsen. (Voyager Books/Harcourt Brace, 1995. Paperback.)

The author explains how a corn seed becomes a tortilla. Workers till the black soil, operate the clanking machinery of the factory, and drive the trucks to deliver the tortillas back into the hands that will plant the yellow seeds.

This Is The Way We Eat Our Lunch by Edith Baer. (Scholastic, 1995. Paperback.)

Kids are taken across America and around the world to learn about the lunch preference of children from different cultures.

* *Carla's Sandwich* by Debbie Herman. (Flashlight Press, 2004. Hardcover.) Available in Spanish also.

Carla is unique, and so are her sandwiches! Every day at lunchtime the kids always make fun of her concoctions like her “lettuce, tomato, raisin, bean sprout, pretzel, and mayonnaise sandwich.” This book with colorful, cheery illustrations might just evoke some ideas of crazy recipes for children to try.

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