

Book Title: My America

Author: Karen Katz

Introduction

- Ask students: What do you notice about the cover of this book?
- Explain: This book will introduce us to children from all around the world that now live in America.

Reading and Discussion

As each child is introduced and “hello” is said in their native language, locate their home country on a map and highlight differences and similarities between their first homes and their homes in America.

Possible discussion questions:

- What do we learn about the different cultures in the book?
- How do different families contribute to America’s diversity?
- What do the people in the book have in common despite their differences?

Activity: My America Collage

Encourage students to reflect on their own cultural identity. Where does their family come from? What traditions do they celebrate?

- Each student will create a collage or drawing that represents their family’s background and traditions. They can include things like:
 - A flag or symbol from their heritage
 - A special tradition, food, or holiday they celebrate
 - Words or phrases in another language their family speaks (or a phrase that is spoken at home regularly)
 - Drawings of important family members or memories
- Underneath their collage, they will write a few sentences answering:
 - What does "America" mean to you?
 - How does your family’s background make you special?