

**Ethnic Groups without Borders**

There are many ethnic groups around the world that do not have officially-recognized countries or borders. In some cases a group's nomadic lifestyle may cause them to exist in several neighboring countries simultaneously or depending on the season, while other groups may constitute one of several different ethnic minorities within a particular nation. This activity allows students to explore different ethnic groups without borders in order to learn more about their unique cultural products, practices, and perspectives.

Do you know anyone who is from an ethnic group without an officially recognized United Nations border? A classmate? A family member? Even yourself?

Please list these people here.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Next, look at a world map to see if you can find the area this person is associated with.

Below is a list of ethnic groups participating in the Festival of Nations that do not have an officially-recognized United Nations’ country border. The accompanying websites can be used prior to coming to the Festival to find out more about each of the ethnic groups.

1. Hmong (www.hmongnet.org)

2. Carpatho-Rusyn (www.simkovich.org)

3. Karen (www.karen.org)

4. Oromo (www.ethiopiatribe.com)

5. Tibetan (www.freetibet.org)

6. American Indian (www.manataka.org under the search bar write American Indian History and choose the top listing)

7. African American (www.afroamhistory.about.com)

**Activity**

Choose one of the above ethnic groups and research the following areas:

1. Where in the world does this ethnic group reside? On what continent is their native area found?
2. Has there been resettlement of these people and if so, where have these people resettled to?
3. What is the size of the group’s current population in their native area?
4. What is the size of the group’s current population in their resettled area?
5. What language(s) do members of the group speak?
6. Can you get your name written in one of the above languages? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. What makes this ethnic group unique compared to other groups? (List 4 things)
8. Was there ever a time that this group claimed a country border?
9. Interview someone from this group at the Festival and describe at least 4 take-aways from your conversation:
10. Would you ever consider visiting their part of the world? Why or why not?
11. Prior to doing this activity, were you aware that there were ethnic groups without officially-recognized country borders?