



Two Stories

IN THIS ACTIVITY, the participants identify cultural and lifestyle-related similarities and differences in the ways communities around the world meet their needs.

TIME REQUIRED: 20-30 MINUTES | INTENDED FOR GRADES 1-5



MATERIALS NEEDED

- » Butcher paper and markers
- » Copies of Resource, “The Gifting Goat,” found on pages 54-55, one for each participant
- » Copies of Resource, “Pigs and Pineapples,” found on pages 56-57, one for each participant
- » A world map or globe
- » Objects that represent items from “The Gifting Goat” story, such as a toy goat, school supplies, food, a miniature village, etc. (optional)
- » Objects that represent items from the “Pigs and Pineapple” story, such as a toy pig, school supplies, pineapple, ear of corn, ginger root, toy motorbike, etc. (optional)
- » Visit worldvision.org/lp/acsi-teacher-resources for a video you can show to support this lesson. (optional)

Activity Steps

1

ASK THE PARTICIPANTS to locate the United States and India on the world map (or globe). Then encourage them to share anything they know about India.

2

INFORM THE PARTICIPANTS that they will be reading a story about a boy named Paritosh from a village in India. Tell them the title, show items from the story, and ask them to predict what the story is about. Accept responses without comment.

3

DISTRIBUTE COPIES of “The Gifting Goat” story to each participant. Ask them to read the story alone, in pairs, or out loud with you. If the story is read aloud, pause at unfamiliar vocabulary and allow the participants to ask questions.

4

AFTER THE STORY has been read, engage the participants in a large-group discussion using the following questions:

- » How did the story and photos compare with your predictions? Did anything surprise you?
- » What kinds of gifts do you get?
- » Would you enjoy receiving a goat as a gift? Why or why not?
- » Why did Paritosh’s family receive a goat?
- » How did the goat make life easier for Paritosh and his family?
- » How will the goat help other people in Paritosh’s community?
- » What other types of animals would be useful?
- » Why is the story called “The Gifting Goat”?

5

ASK THE PARTICIPANTS to locate the continent of Asia and the country of Laos on the map (or globe). Then encourage them to share anything they know about Laos. Emphasize the distance between Laos and the United States.

6

EXPLAIN THAT THEY will be reading a story about a boy called Hhamphouy, who lives in a village in Laos. Tell them the title, show items from the story and ask them to predict what the story is about. Accept all responses without comment.

7

DISTRIBUTE COPIES of the “Pigs and Pineapples” story to the participants. Ask them to read the story alone, in pairs, or out loud with you. If the story is read aloud, pause at unfamiliar vocabulary and allow students to ask questions.

8

AFTER THE STORY has been read, engage the participants in a large-group discussion using the following questions:

- » Who is Hhamphouy? Describe what he does during a day. How is your life the same or different?
- » Did anything about Hhamphouy’s life surprise you?
- » In what ways did having pigs make Hhamphouy’s life easier?
- » What other things have made life easier for Hhamphouy and his family?

9

ASK THE PARTICIPANTS to form groups of four or five. Provide each group with a sheet of butcher paper and a marker. Invite the groups to compose five questions they would like to ask Paritosh and Hhamphouy. Ask them to write the questions and the responses they think these two young people would give.

10

INVITE THE GROUPS to present their questions and answers to the larger group.

11

CONCLUDE BY INVITING the participants to join you in prayer. Pray for Hhamphouy and his family. Pray for Paritosh and her family. Pray for all families in need.

RESOURCE

The Gifting Goat



PARITOSH LIVES IN SOHAIL VILLAGE IN INDIA. HERE IS HIS STORY.

Hello! My name is Paritosh and I am 10 years old. I live in Sohail village in the Indian state of West Bengal, on the border of a country called Bangladesh.

I like my village, but it is very poor. I live with my parents and my little sister. We live in a simple hut with broken fences and broken mud walls. My parents don't earn very much money, not enough to fix the broken walls. My father says that buying food for the family and sending my sister and me to school are more important than fixing a wall right now. But I know it's hard for my parents. Sometimes I notice that they don't eat just so there will be enough money to pay our school fees. That makes me sad.

Our village is so poor and there are so few jobs here that some of my friends' fathers have gone to bigger towns and cities looking for work. I'm glad my father hasn't had to leave. He has been able to stay with us because our family is doing better now, thanks to some help from World Vision.

I am a member of a children's club in my village. This is a very important club. Sometimes the adults in our village have meetings, and they ask the children in the club about things that concern us, such as going to school. Because I am a member of the children's club, my family was selected to receive a gift from the development workers.

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RESOURCE

The Gifting Goat (cont.)

Can you guess what we were given? A goat! That's right—a goat! My sister and I were so happy. From the moment we received our goat, we took good care of her. She soon became pregnant and, after a few months, gave birth to a little kid, right behind the mud walls of our home. I remember every moment of its birth as if it was yesterday. I don't have a name for my little black-colored kid, but I know he understands me. I love communicating with animals.

Over the next few years our goat will have more babies and, when they get bigger, my father will sell them. The money he makes from selling goats will help pay for our food and pay for me to go to high school. This will make life much easier for all of us.

I am looking forward to going to high school. Not many people in my village have gone to high school, but my parents and I know how important it is for me to get an education. Then I'll be able to get a good job and help support my family.

I almost forgot to tell you something important. In order for my family to receive our goat, we had to promise to give her first-born female kid to another family who doesn't have a goat and who needs some help, just like my family needed help before we got our goat. My mother said, "This is a noble idea, a great help to other families in the village." My mother is very kind. I know she is more than happy to share what she has with another family. So am I. That's one of the reasons I'm glad we received a goat as a gift. Now we can help other people in our village.

Story date: 2008



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RESOURCE

Pigs and Pineapples



Hello! My name is Hhamphouy (pronounced Ham-po-ee). I am 10 years old. I live in Sieng Si Village in Laos in a village surrounded by beautiful mountains. I live with my mom, dad, brothers, and sister. I have one older brother, Phout, (pronounced Pote) who is 12. My younger brother, Phai (pronounced Pie), is 6. My sister, Phou, (pronounced Po) is the youngest. She is 4 years old. We all live together in a concrete house with a tin roof. There are two bedrooms. My parents sleep in one room, and I sleep with my siblings in another room.

For many years, we did not have any animals or many things to grow in our field. My parents didn't have much work to do and couldn't earn any money. Life was very hard. Since then, our life has improved a lot. World Vision gave us pigs, chicken, fish, and pineapple seeds. In the beginning of the project, we received two pigs. Soon, we had 10 pigs! My parents sold five of our pigs to buy a motorbike so we could take our crops to the market more easily.

Life is easier now that we also have a new water supply system. I used to walk 20 minutes to get to the mountain spring, but now I just walk a few feet from my house to the water tap to get water for our family. Soon, our fish will be big enough for my parents to sell. Next year, if we need school supplies, my parents will have the money to buy what my brother and I need to keep going to school.

Right now I am in the second grade and my favorite subject is mathematics. Phout is also in second grade. We hope to be the first in our family to complete primary school. I want to finish primary school and continue to high school. If I complete high school, one day I can find a good job. I want to be a policeman so I can protect people and help our country.

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RESOURCE

Pigs and Pineapples (cont.)

Every morning I wake up at 4 a.m. After I get dressed, I make a fire so my mom can steam rice. I also fetch water from the water tap. Then I wash dishes and help clean the house. Once the house is clean, I walk a few minutes down the mountain to feed our pigs, chicken, and fish. Then I go back to the house, wash my face, and get ready for school.

My parents are both farmers, so they go to the field every day. They grow pineapples, corn, ginger, and rice. When my older brother, Phout, and I go to school, my parents take my younger siblings to the field with them.

When school finishes at 4 p.m., I go to our family's field to work. Our field is on a hillside close to my house. I bring water to my parents and join my siblings to help clear weeds from the land. Today, my parents are growing lots of pineapples on the hill. I work for about two hours before my family goes home for dinner. On my way back to the house, I feed the pigs and fish again. After dinner, I do my homework and then go play with my friends or watch TV. I go to bed around 8 p.m. every day.

On weekends, I go to the field with my family for the whole day. Usually, we leave the house around 7 a.m. and come home at 5:30 p.m., so I don't have much free time. When I do, I like to play football with my friends.

These days my parents have a lot of things to do to help them earn money, so they can buy the things my family needs, especially food and clothes. Even though I am very busy and tired at the end of each day, I know that life is better than it was before.

Story date: 2007



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