

Gourds & Calabashes Culture Exploration Kit



Sample items from the kit

A large assortment of carved, painted and decoratively burned gourds from cultures around the world, including Africa, Asia and the Americas. Musical instruments, serving vessels and utensils, boxes and decorative pieces made by different cultures, plus CMLC Info Cards with intriguing facts and cultural histories on each gourd, books appropriate for children, maps and relevant articles.

Appropriate for K-12 through Adult.

Highlights of this kit: Lots of gourd maracas and rattles! Instructions for building a gourd thumb piano. Many gourds from African countries and several picture-books with African and African –American folk stories highlighting gourds place in African home life and the transmission of traditions to America, plus a CD of African-American folk music with “Follow the Drinking Gourd” – a song of the underground railroad.

This Culture Exploration Kit was made possible through generous support from: Amelia Anderson, Lucy Dauman, Megan Emery, Amanda Garton, Carly Larson, Linzy McIntyre, Many Hands Trading, LLC, OSU Folk Club Thrift Shop, Heartland Humane Society Thrift Store Volunteers, CMLC Volunteers and Donors, Wikipedia and Wikimedia Commons

Additional materials you might like to provide when using the kit: dried gourds and colored markers for a crafts class, or more elaborately, materials listed in the kit for building thumb pianos.