

What are CultureQuests?

CultureQuests are inquiry-based, technology-supported investigations of other peoples and cultures conducted by teachers and students, grades 3 through college. CultureQuests supplement the use of traditional texts in learning about countries or cultures with the vast array of resources provided by the Internet. These resources include: information-rich websites, e-mail, voice and video access to students in classrooms of the culture under study and online communication with experts. CultureQuests utilize technology to enhance all phases of the research process, culminating in a class website that serves to provide a worldwide audience for student work.

CultureQuest projects are based on the teacher's curriculum, expected standards, and students' questions and interests. After looking at 'core' aspects of a country (e.g. demographics, history, geography, etc.) students undertake the exploration of such aspects of culture as: literature, art, music, religion, language, daily life, customs and traditions.

CultureQuests promote better understanding and appreciation of other cultures, strengthen literacy and research skills, and provide students with the technology skills they need in the 21st century. As such, it is one of the best examples of the integration of technology and content.

The development and expansion of the CultureQuest Consortium is being supported by the JPMorgan Chase Foundation.

CultureQuest Seeks Local, State, International, and University Partners

To maximize the number of classrooms participating in CultureQuest, we are seeking partnerships with school districts, state departments of education, and other appropriate organizations and educational authorities willing to host CultureQuest for their state, region or nation. Becoming a partner involves providing professional development for teachers and, optionally, maintaining a CultureQuest website.

CultureQuest Consortium partners are developing CultureQuest programs at the University of Vermont, Western Michigan University, Eastern Connecticut State College, and Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas as well as at Hosei University in Tokyo, The Pedagogical Center in Malmo, Sweden and the New Delhi Schools, India. Representatives from Chile, the Dominican Republic, Spain, Ireland, Israel, Alaska and Pennsylvania will also be joining as partners.

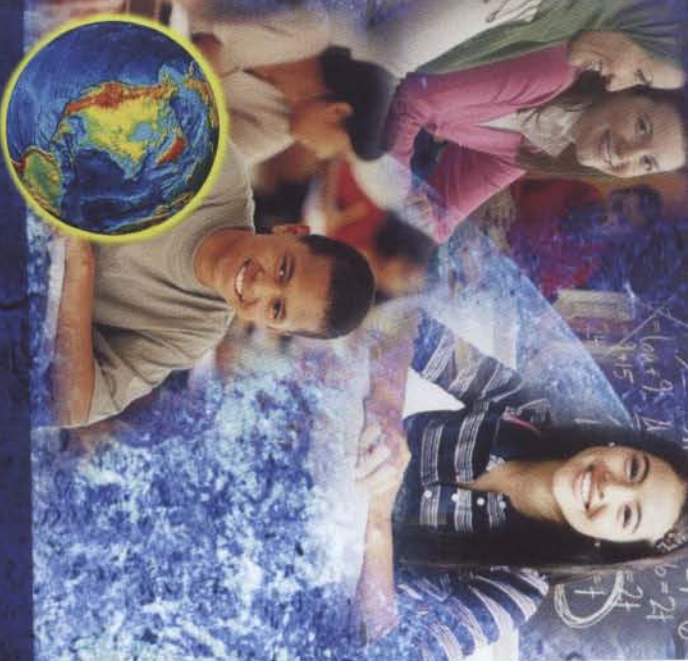
We invite you to contact us if you would like to learn more about becoming a partner in the CultureQuest Consortium. We will provide a free, two-day orientation program as well as ongoing support and assistance so that you can more easily establish your own CultureQuest website and teacher orientation program.

For further information contact:

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CULTUREQUEST

The Center for School Development

The School of Education

The City College of the

City University of New York

New York, NY 10031

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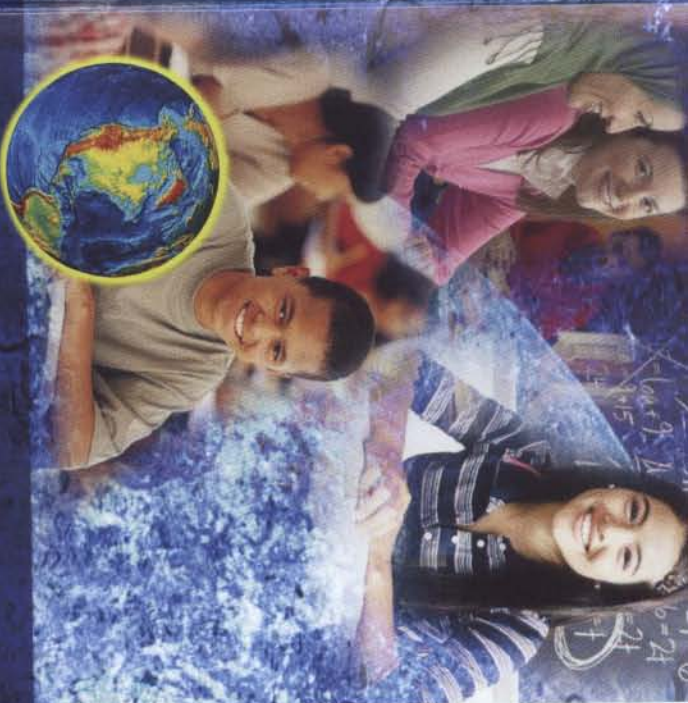
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Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers in your School or School District

In April of 2002, the Center for School Development received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to begin our work with "CultureQuest". As part of their professional development, we ask teachers to engage in their own CultureQuest projects, thereby modeling what they will do with their pupils. Most often teachers initiate CultureQuest projects in their classrooms as part of their training. Currently, professional development opportunities include:

For Teachers Skilled in Technology:

• A two-hour overview of the project for those already familiar with the needed technology skills and project-based learning.

For Teachers Less Skilled in Technology:

• Twenty to thirty workshop hours focused on technology applications and integration, inquiry-based learning, CultureQuest pedagogy and the study of culture. Available online or face-to-face. As part of the training, participants will create and implement a CultureQuest project in their classrooms.



For School or District Turn-Key Trainers

• A one or two-day workshop for those in a position to serve as a school or district level trainer or coordinator. The workshop assumes some level of expertise in technology applications and integration and will model the CultureQuest process. It will focus on the pedagogy and technology needed to do a CultureQuest project.



Teachers and/or school district staff who feel ready to involve their students in CultureQuest projects with no additional support are welcome to go directly to our website at: <http://www.culturequest.us> and use the materials at the site to help plan their curriculum and activities. For teachers, principals or other administrators who feel their teachers need additional support, our staff will work with you in designing a professional development program best suited to meet the needs of your school or district.

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW
TEACHERS IN YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT CAN
PARTICIPATE IN CULTUREQUEST CONTACT:

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The Content and Outcomes of Professional Development

Preparing teachers to lead CultureQuest classroom projects involves the learning or further review of such areas as: technology applications and integration, the pedagogy of inquiry-based instruction and cultural studies. How CultureQuest objectives and activities strengthen students' literacy skills, research skills, technology skills and their knowledge and appreciation of other peoples and cultures will be made explicit.

CultureQuest enables teachers to:

- Increase students' inquiry, analytical and research skills.
- Enhance student literacy within a standards-based curriculum.
- Provide students with improved technology skills.
- Encourage students to work collaboratively with peers.
- Provide students with a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures.
- Strengthen students' motivation and curiosity.
- Publish student work on the Web for a worldwide audience.

CultureQuest serves as a model for how teachers can use technology to explore culture as well as to teach almost any content.