

# Virtual Lessons for Improving Academic Language for EL Learners

Tacoma Public Schools ELL Department

**Jamie Meidl**

Elementary

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Secondary



# Learning Goals

## Target:

### I can...

- Facilitate academic language learning and practice for EL students:
  - Through virtual lessons
  - using media tools
  - Incorporating language acquisition research-based strategies

## Success Criteria:

### I will demonstrate my learning by...

- Creating a short PowerPoint presentation that includes:
  - A topic
  - EL scaffolds
  - 1-3 media tools
- Turning in my presentation

## Supports:

- Discussion of specific EL considerations and scaffolds
  - Example primary and secondary lessons
  - Demonstrations on using PowerPoint tools
    - 20+ minutes



# Project Expectations



You will be given time throughout the session to practice different techniques and by the end of the session will have a “mini” PowerPoint Presentation that will serve as your “proof of learning” task.

## Topic:

- A) A relevant topic you will be teaching during the first weeks of school (A getting to know you/ beginning the school year activity)
- B) A story for beginning of year with and activity for students.
- C) A country that represents the EL population at your school.

## Requirements:

- 1-2 slides
- Demonstrates understanding of the 5 Scaffolds
- Utilizes 1-3 technology/media tools in PowerPoint

**Click your mouse  
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next slide**

Please send your project or the link to [jpichar@Tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:jpichar@Tacoma.k12.wa.us)

\*Clock hours available for TPS Employees upon project completion

\*If you need assistance getting your own PowerPoint Presentation started, please view the applicable demonstration video provided below:

[Starting PowerPoint from a PC](#)

[Starting PowerPoint from a Mac](#)

# Virtual Teaching Scaffolds

## **Scaffold 1.**

Target Vocabulary

## **Scaffold 2.**

Activating prior knowledge

## **Scaffold 3.**

Modeling

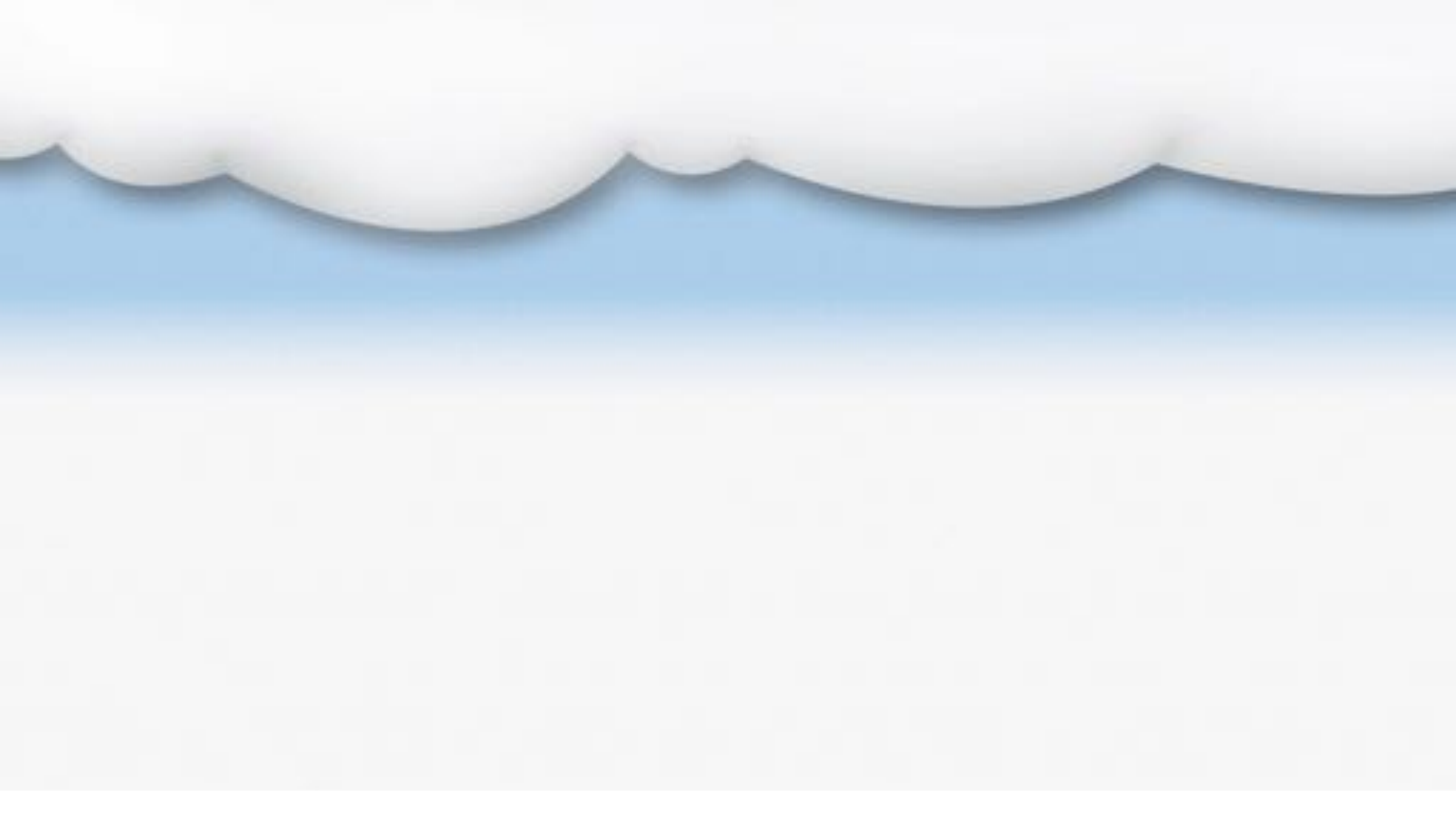
## **Scaffold 4.**

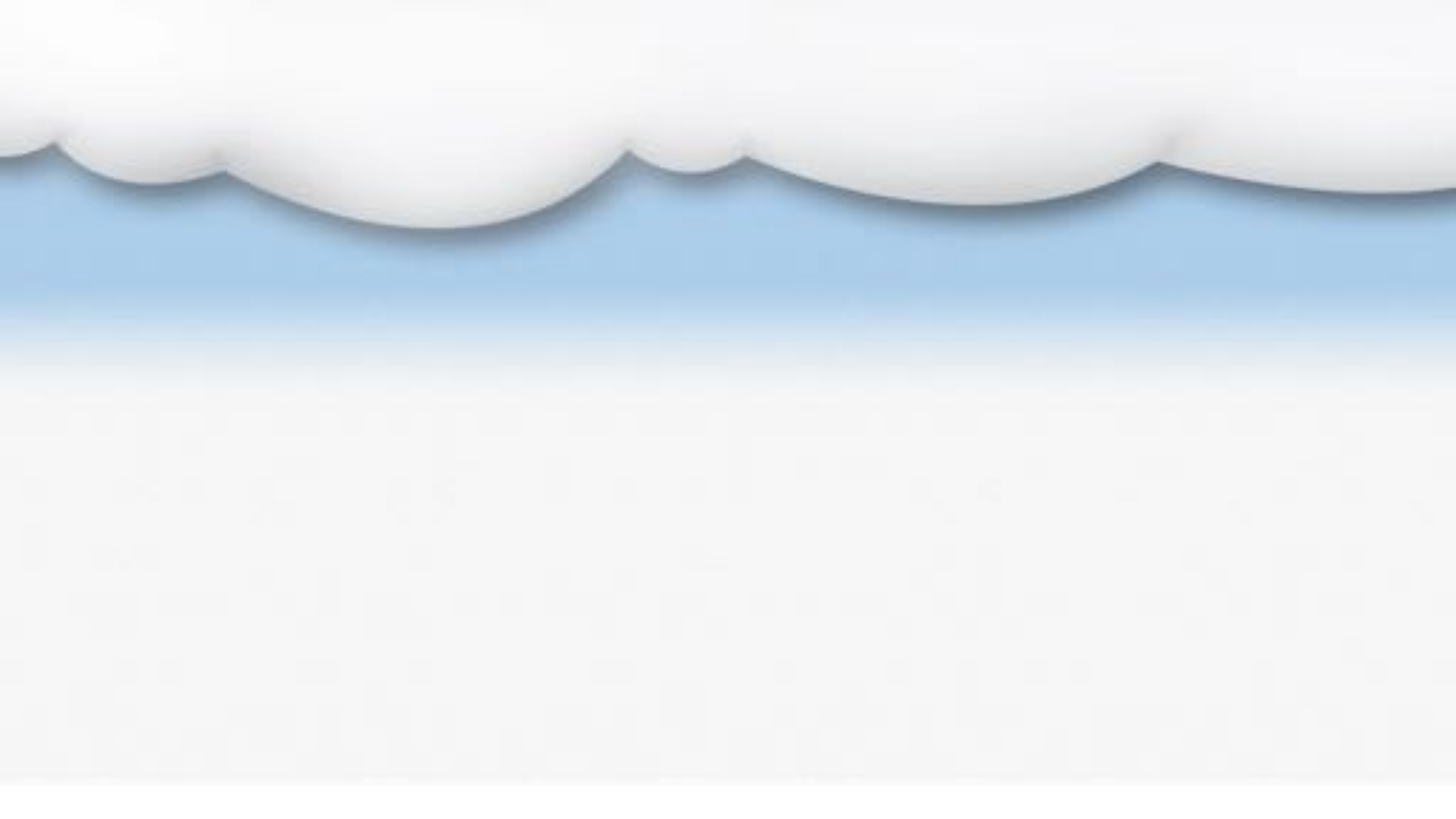
Visual Aids

## **Scaffold 5.**

Funds of Knowledge

Possibly- Culturally Relevant,  
family & student engagement







# Introduction

Hi, Kindergarteners! I'm Mrs. Meidl, the ELL teacher, and I'll be reading the text with you again this week!

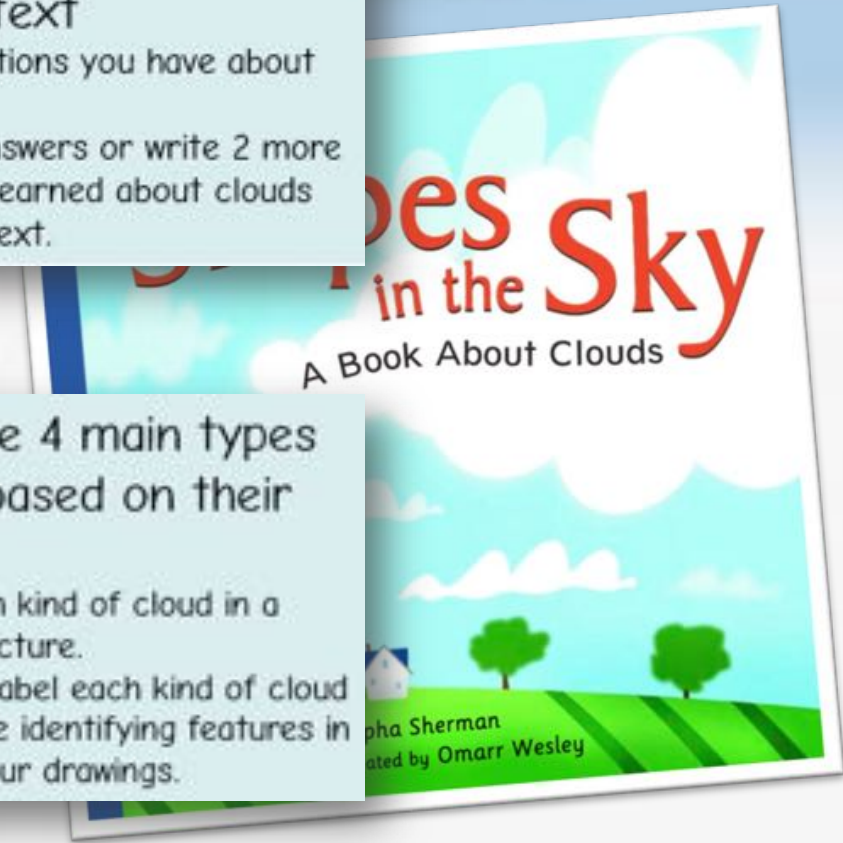


 Ask and Answer questions about the text

- tell 2 questions you have about clouds.
- find the answers or write 2 more facts you learned about clouds from the text.

 Identify the 4 main types of clouds based on their features.

- Name each kind of cloud in a drawing/picture.
- Draw and label each kind of cloud and include identifying features in each of your drawings.



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# Activity 1

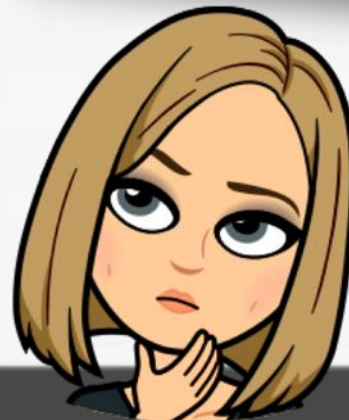
## *K-W-L Chart: Part 1*

1. **Think**: about what you already know about **clouds**. What questions do you have about clouds?
2. **Write** 2 or more things that you already know about clouds.
3. **Write** 2 or more questions you have about clouds.
4. **Read**/Listen to the story to learn more about clouds.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### K-W-L Chart

What I... Know	Wonder	Learned



Record Slide Show - Record

Forms Screenshot - Content

Screen Video Audio - Auto-play Media

Save as Export Show to Video - Save

# Activity 1

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What I... **K-W-L Chart**

Know	Wonder	Learned





### **Cumulus Clouds**

Scientists have names for different types of clouds.  
Cumulus clouds are full and puffy.  
They are piled up like heaps of whipped cream.  
They often appear on summer days.





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Please pause the presentation  
and take 5-7 minutes to  
practice using some of the  
PowerPoint tools you've  
learned to enhance your exit  
task presentation.



**Tornado**



Spanish  
**Tornado**

Ukrainian  
**Торнадо**

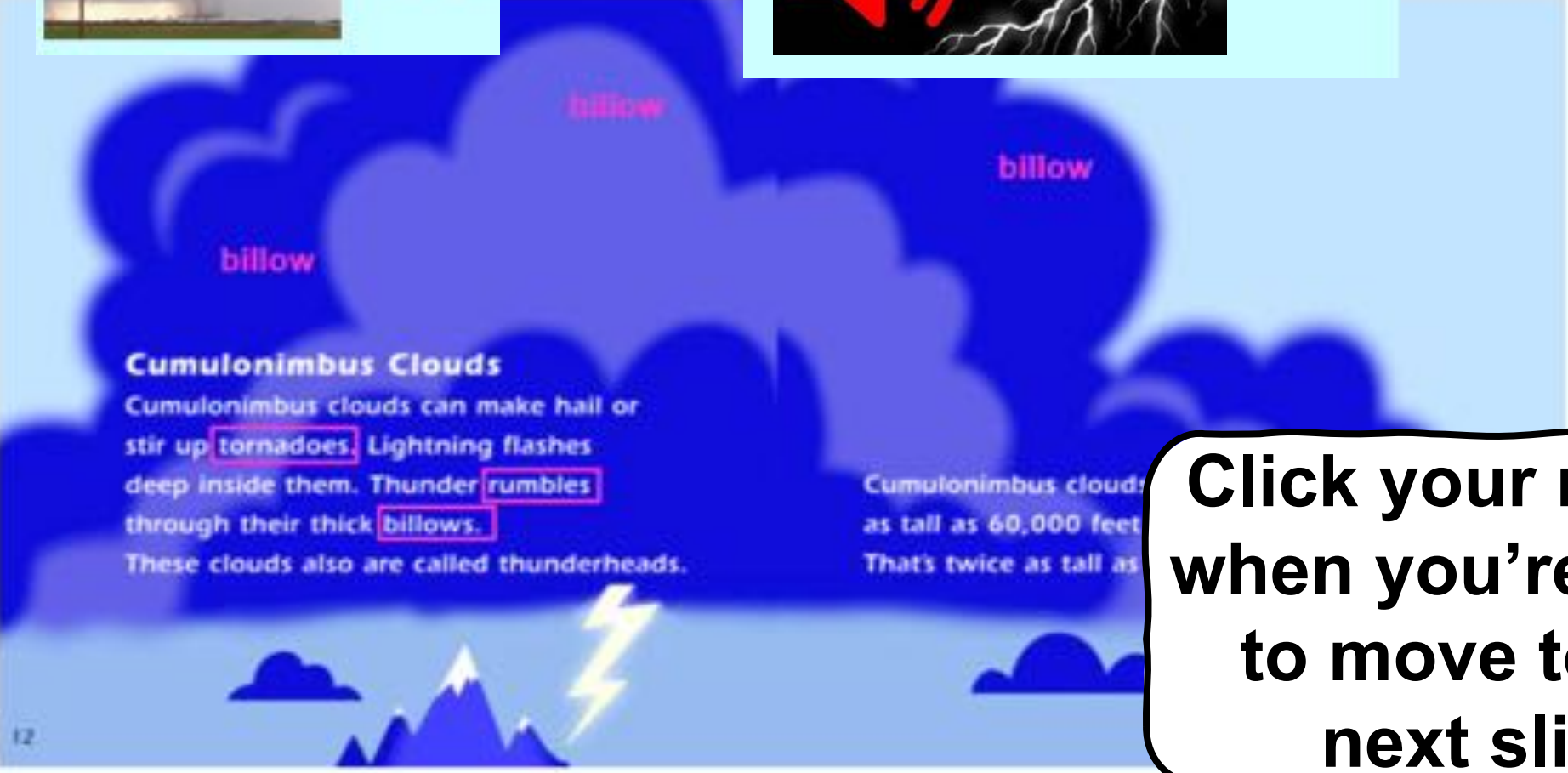
**Rumbles**



Spanish  
**Retumba**

Ukrainian  
**гуркоче**

Click  
Play



**Cumulonimbus Clouds**

Cumulonimbus clouds can make hail or stir up **tornadoes**. Lightning flashes deep inside them. Thunder **rumbles** through their thick **billows**. These clouds also are called thunderheads.

Cumulonimbus clouds are as tall as 60,000 feet. That's twice as tall as...

**Click your mouse  
when you're ready  
to move to the  
next slide**



form



Spanish  
Crear

Ukrainian  
Створити

Click  
Play

wispy



Spanish  
ralo

Ukrainian  
Тонкими

### Cirrus Clouds

When a cloud rises very high, it reaches cooler air. If the air is cool enough, the water droplets inside the cloud freeze into tiny ice crystals. Trillions of these crystals hang together and **form** cirrus clouds.

Cirrus clouds float high in the air, sometimes above the other clouds. They can look as **wispy** as feathers. They can curl like lizard tails.

Click your mouse  
when you're ready  
to move to the  
next slide



**form**

Click Play

**wispy**

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# Activity 2

## Part 1

### *Watch & Play*



1. **Watch** the short video lesson on the next slide.
2. **Think** about the different types of clouds and their features. How do you tell them apart?
3. **Play** *Name that Cloud!* on the slide after the video lesson (Slide 17).



**Click play** (at the bottom of the black screen)  
to watch the short video lesson.

Click  
Play





Thumbnails

## Activity 2 Part 1



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# Word Bank



Cumulus

Cirrus

Stratus

Cumulonimbus

~~Fog~~





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# Activity 3

## What Do You See?

1. **Read**/Listen to the story **again**
2. **Watch** the short video lesson **again** on slide 17.
3. Complete the **activity sheet**, *What Do You See?*:
  - What shapes do you see in the clouds in each of the photos?
  - Write what shape you see under each photo.
4. **Show** and **explain** your work to someone.



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**Unit: Festivals**

# Festivals



Target: I can understand and explain how festivals are celebrated all around the world.



Lantern Festival (Yi Peng), Thailand



San Sebastian Festival,  
Puerto Rico



Awa Odori Dance Festival, Japan

## Questions:



1. Which festivals are held in your **native country**?
2. What is your favorite festival, and why?
3. What types of food do people typically serve at festivals in your country?



Corpus Christi Devil Dancing, San Francisco de Yare,  
Venezuela



Eid al- fitr Festival , Egypt

# Key Vocabulary

## Listen, read and repeat.



### Festival

A day or period of celebration, usually in memory of a religious event, with its own social activities, food or ceremonies



### Tradition

The handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, information from generation to generation



The set of shared values, attitudes social practices beliefs, and behaviors shared by a group of people in a place or time



### Ritual

A series of actions preformed according to an order



### Ceremony

A formal religious or public occasion, typically one celebrating an event

# KWL Chart

Complete the K and W columns of the chart. Use the sentences starters as a guide.

K What do you KNOW about Festivals?	W WHAT questions do you have about festivals?	L What did you LEARN about festivals?
Festivals are ...	What...?	
In my home country, festivals...	How...?	
In the United States, people ...	When...?	
	Where...?	
	Who...?	

Please pause the presentation  
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## Reading: Read independently or click for audio.

1. Eid al-Fitr (often called Eid) is an Islamic festival. It celebrates the breaking of the month-long **fast** of Ramadan. Eid begins the morning after the sighting of the new moon. This is the first day of Shawwal on the Islamic calendar.
2. During the holy month of Ramadan, Muslims develop **empathy** for the poor by fasting from sunrise to sunset. This theme continues through Eid. Before the celebration begins, Muslims must donate to **charity**. Traditionally, Muslim families donate four double handfuls of food per family member. This **mandatory** donation is called Zakat al-Fitr. If food collection is unavailable, families make an **equivalent** cash donation.
3. On the morning after the new moon sighting, Muslims wake up early and enjoy a small snack or meal together. This is the first daytime meal after Ramadan. After breakfast, Muslims **gather** in open fields or at a **mosque** to pray. They recite a special prayer just for Eid (Salat al-Eid). The food donation must be made before this prayer.
4. In the afternoon, Muslims dress in their finest clothes and decorate their homes. Then they enjoy a large **feast** with friends and family members. The feast includes a variety of sweets as well as dishes that are traditional in the region. Adults give money and gift bags to children. Throughout the day, Muslims thank Allah (God) for their **blessings**.
5. Eid al-Fitr is an official holiday in Muslim-majority countries. The traditions and feasts **vary** depending on the region. In some countries Eid is a three-day festival, and in others it only lasts one or two days. The start day varies from country to country depending on the sighting of the moon by a religious leader. Muslims are not allowed to fast on this day.
6. Eid Mubarak (blessed celebration)

### Note:

Though Eid al-Fitr (the festival of breaking the fast) is often shortened to Eid, there is another Islamic festival called Eid al-Adha (the festival of the sacrifice). It takes place about two months after Eid al-Fitr and honors Ibrahim's (Abraham's) sacrifice of his son as a sign of his faith.

## Watch this video on the Eid al-Fitr Festival:



## Reading: Day of the Dead Festival

1. The Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) is a centuries-old Mexican festival for remembering and honoring lost **loved ones**. The festival begins on All Hallows' Eve (October 31) and ends on All Souls' Day (November 2). According to age-old Mexican beliefs, the dead return once a year to visit with the living.
2. During the Day of the Dead festival, family members build **altars** and decorate **gravesites** for their **deceased** relatives and friends. On November 1, families honor the children who have **passed away**. Fruits, nuts, and miniature sugar skulls are placed on altars in homes and cemeteries to attract the young **souls** for a visit. On November 2, the souls of the adults are invited home. Yellow marigolds (the flower of the dead), candles, and favorite foods and beverages are offered to the spirits. In many traditional Mexican families, a lot of time and money is spent to ensure that the dead bring hope and **prosperity** to the family when they visit.
3. The Day of the Dead may sound like a **morbid** holiday, but it is actually a joyous occasion. Some families play cards and sing songs in cemeteries, while others dance and share memories. Many spend all night at the cemetery celebrating their ancestors. This helps bring communities together and prevents children from developing a fear of death.
4. The Day of the Dead originated in Mexico and spread throughout Latin America. Today it is celebrated in many parts of the world, including Italy, Spain, the Philippines, and parts of the US. As it spreads, it becomes more **commercialized**. Some Latino Americans fear that Halloween and the Day of the Dead are becoming too closely associated. They worry that the traditions of honoring the dead may soon be lost. In 2008, UNESCO declared the Day of the Dead an "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity." **Intangible** culture includes anything from music and folklore to ceremonial dances.



## Watch this video:





# Writing Activity : ◀▶

## Day of the Dead Festival

After reading, please answer the following questions in complete sentences :

1- When is Day of the Dead celebrated? ◀▶

2- Which of the following is NOT an element of a traditional Day of the Dead altar:

- A) Marigold flowers ◀▶
- B) Candles
- C) Bread of the dead
- D) Shoelaces

3- What's the difference between Day of the Dead and Halloween? ◀▶

4- How do you celebrate the dead? ◀▶



## Extended Learning Activities

Other lessons/ activities may include:

- Students create a project about a Festival of their choice (students can work with families, record their audio, use drawings, create a poster or a 3-D model) Consider the Funds of Knowledge and the resources students have available at home.
- More lessons with reading passages & comprehension questions about other festivals.
- Class discussions using Microsoft Teams, Zoom or your district preferred Learning Management System (LMS).
- Students sharing their projects with peers via video recording or on your district preferred LMS.

*The possibilities are endless!*

Record Slide Show  
Forms Screenshot  
Screen Video Audio  
Save as Show Export to Video to Stream  
Publish to Stream



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Activating prior knowledge

## **Scaffold 3.**

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# Resources – Jamie Meidl

Contact: [jmeidl@Tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:jmeidl@Tacoma.k12.wa.us)

Link to the complete primary lesson: [Kindergarten Clouds Lesson](#)

My Sway Site (other examples of virtual primary lessons): [J. Meidl Sway](#)

## For Interactive Read-Aloud Books, K-5:

- Schoolwide: <https://fundamentals.schoolwide.com/>
- GetEpic!: <https://www.getepic.com/sign-in>
- MyOn: <https://www.myon.com/school/demoregion8>
- Book Library (guided reading sets): take photos, email to self, save and insert images into PowerPoint lesson.

## Other Useful Resources:

- GIPHY.com (for short vocabulary video definitions): <https://giphy.com/>
- ¡Colorín Colorado!, *Distance Learning for ELLs*, (includes links to dozens of additional resources): <https://www.colorincolorado.org/distance-learning-ells>
- We Are Teachers, *Addressing the Remote Learning Needs of Your English Language Learners*, (Includes great considerations and recommendations): <https://www.weareteachers.com/english-language-learners-remote/>

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# Resources – Joellia Pichardo

Contact: [jpichar@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:jpichar@tacoma.k12.wa.us)

**Complete lesson for Secondary:** [EL Virtual Lesson Slides- Festivals.pptx](#)

**Academic Language Scripts:** <file:///C:/Users/jpichar/Desktop/PD/Academic%20Language%20Scripts-Student%20Handout.pdf>

## **Book:**

Small Teaching Online: Applying Learning Science in Online Classes 1st Edition

by Flower Darby (Author), James M. Lang (Author)

<https://www.amazon.com/Small-Teaching-Online-Applying-Learning/dp/1119619092>

## **Podcasts:**

- Cult of Pedagogy: <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/distance-learning/>
- Highest Aspirations ELLevation: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/highest-aspirations/id1363992974?i=1000473778248>
- Adventures of ESL: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/adventures-in-esl-a-podcast-for-k-12-esl-teachers/id1473706378?i=1000472773667>

## **Extras :**

- Converting In-Person Activities to Distance Learning Activities : <https://www.wested.org/wested-insights/converting-in-person-activities-to-distance-learning-activities/>
- How Educators Can Support English Learner Students in Distance Learning: <https://www.wested.org/wested-insights/supporting-english-learner-students-in-distance-learning/>