

The video's theme is the many cultures in America. We demonstrate by singing, playing, talking, and looking at interesting clothing that America is a country of people who come from other countries. Many people believe that before the American Indians crossed to this area on the Bering land bridge there were probably no humans here at all.

Say Hello in Many Languages

Students from Bailey's Elementary School in Bailey's Crossroad, Virginia, and their teacher, Ms. Tara Hoffman, sing the "Hello" song. Ms. Hoffman wrote the "Hello" song with her students so that everyone could learn to say "hello" in languages other than English.

What the Students Are Wearing

The students are each wearing clothing from their native cultures and they tell a little about what they are wearing.

- Ahmed is wearing an Egyptian galabeya.
- Raphael is wearing pantalones (pants) and a camisa (shirt) from Guatemala.
- Farkanda is wearing a Pakistani dress and has henna patterns drawn on her hands.
- Kemi is wearing a Nigerian outfit where the patterns were made by dipping in a well.
- Nhi is wearing a Vietnamese outfit that is generally worn on holidays, like New Year's Day.
- Veronica is wearing the clothes typically worn in an American elementary school.

Eemo Imo — The Name Game

The song "Eemo Imo" makes a game out of learning new names. Speech and listening are brought into play in the song "Eemo Imo." Children echo each phrase and new, and sometimes, interesting sounds are produced by combining the first consonant in each child's name with "eemo," "imo," "immy," "immy," and "oomo." For example, using the name James becomes "Jeemo, Jimo, Jimmy Joomo."

Sing and Move to Blue Sky City

"Blue Sky City" is a fun opportunity for children to improve their coordination even while sitting at their desks. Students listen to the motions described in the song and sing along with the children's voices on the tape.

Meet Brother Ah and His Students

Brother Ah is a fascinating man and teacher of young children who has studied and performed African music and jazz all his life. Brother Ah has recorded and played with many musicians such as John Coltrane, Duke Ellington, and Sun Ra. He now focuses on playing World music and teaching students from 18 months to 80 years old. He is joined by daughter Dara, and two friends, Doruba and Glover.

The children play the djembe, (pronounced Jim-bay), an African drum with a wooden shell and skin head. Brother Ah plays a tumba, (toom-bah), another African drum.

The piece that the ensemble plays is based on the rhythms and movements of the city of Washington and the people who live there. The idea of playing the rhythms of his community was inspired by Brother Ah's studies in Africa, where he met musicians who asked to hear the rhythms of his homeland.

Singing Goodbye

The video ends with everyone singing and playing a song the song "Adios" written by Ms. Hoffman. The idea of "Adios" is to sing "goodbye" in various languages. In the video, it is sung in Spanish, Russian, Arabic, and Ibo. Below are ways to say "goodbye" in other languages:

Adiós mis amigos [Spanish]

Auf weidersein meine fruede [German]

Sayonara my friends [Japanese]

Arrivederci my friends [Italian]

Shalom chavarim [Yiddish]

O nee gee y hee my friends [Iroquoian]

Dosvadanya my friends [Russian]