

Thursday-Intergenerational, Black families and Black Villages

Content/Goal

Students will:

- ★ Understand the importance of having spaces where people of different ages can come together and learn from each other.
- ★ Understand that there are lots of different kinds of families; what makes a family is that it's people who take care of each other. Those people might be related, or maybe they choose to be "family" and to take care of each other. Sometimes, when it's lots of people and families together, it can be called a village.
- ★ Understand it's important to make sure that all kinds of families feel welcome.

Materials

Copies or display of African Proverb "It takes a village to raise a child"
[Article](#) - Slide 5 (sub - <https://www.afsusa.org/study-abroad/culture-trek/culture-points/culture-points-individualism-and-collectivism/>)
[Pro/Con Chart](#)
[Slides](#)

Vocabulary

Nuclear Family vs Village
Individualism vs collectivism
Elder
Ageism

Learning Plan

Teaching Point

Today we are going to learn that there is no correct kind of family, some people have families that extend beyond people who are actually related to them (village), and families and villages are groups of people who love and care for each other.

Active Engagement

Handout or display the African Proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child."
Have students discuss in partners or in small groups what this proverb means.

Guiding Principles

Another way whiteness/ white supremacy shows up in the United States is in the idea of the *nuclear family*. In the United States and other countries colonized by European countries, families that consist of a mom and dad and 2-3 children (maybe even a dog) are considered the proper or right way to have a family. There is nothing wrong with having a family that has

these members, AND there are lots of different kinds of families. What makes a family is that it's people who take care of each other. Those people might be related, or maybe they choose to be family together. It's important to make sure that all families feel welcome. Sometimes, when it's lots of families together, it can be called a village. The **Black Families** and **Black Village** guiding principles encourage safe spaces for all types of families. It is important to disrupt the nuclear family dynamics as the "best" or "proper" way to have a family and understand collectivism has its benefits to the community as a whole.

Other members that are important to the family/ village are children and elders. Oftentimes, people think that children are too young and elders are too old to contribute anything valuable to the family/village. This is called ageism. It's important that we have spaces where people of different ages can come together and learn from each other. Another way to say that is **Intergenerational**. If something is intergenerational, that means that it people of many ages or generations are included and present and it is free of ageism.

Collectivism vs Individualism

In small groups, have students read the article about Collectivism Vs. Individualism with the purpose of finding pros and cons to each concept in or outside of the article). After about 10-15 minutes, have students come back together to compile their pros and cons in one list. Discuss what they notice.

Closing

As we wrap up, think of a word or phrase that sums up what's on your mind or in your heart after today's lesson. Don't forget to share with your family or adult at home what we talked about today.

*Pay attention to students who disengage and consider the reasons.

Discussion/ Reflection Question(s)

What makes a family?

What is unique about my family?

What makes a family a type of community?

How does having different kinds of families make our community richer?

Why is it important to learn about different types of families?

What are things that you have learned from people younger than you in your village?

What are things that you have learned from people older than you in your village?

[Homework](#)

[Homework SPANISH](#)