



# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Reach



## NEWSLETTER

Level E | Unit 1

### Dear Family Member,

“How important are traditions?” That is the big question we are exploring in this unit. To answer it, we are reading, writing, and talking about cultural traditions, customs, and celebrations, and how they make our lives richer. Be a part of our exploration! With your student, read the New Words on the next page. Then follow these directions.

### Directions:

1. Talk together about a family tradition. Share what you know about how the tradition started and what your family does to celebrate or continue it. Try to use some of the New Words in your discussion.
2. On the lines below, write notes that tell about your tradition. Use the New Words when you can.
3. Choose an item that represents your tradition, such as a photo of the celebration, a craft or artwork, or a musical recording. Send the item or a picture of the item to school for your student to share with the class.

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### What We're Reading

#### **“Josh Ponte: A Musical Journey”** by Ramona Jafar

In this interview, explorer Josh Ponte describes how the music of Gabon connects people with their culture, nature, and each other.

#### **“Shaped by Tradition”** by Patricia Millman

In this article, a blind sculptor “sees with his hands” as he follows a family tradition of working with clay.

#### **“Martina the Beautiful Cockroach”** by Carmen Agra Deedy

In this Cuban folk tale, Martina follows a clever tradition to help her choose a husband.

#### **“Coming of Age”** adapted from *Skippping Stones*

This article tells about the Indian sari ceremony and its traditions.

**And more!**



# New Words

## Weeks 1 and 2

craft

medium

style

create

musical

tradition

culture

perform

weave

express

pottery

## Weeks 3 and 4

ancestor

influence

ritual

belief

marriage

role

ceremony

occasion

custom

relationship