**Making Your Clan**

Earlier if you remember I said you would be getting into groups and you would be able to form your own clans. As a part of your clan you all are going to be responsible for making and developing your own culture.

Before you all can jump into that that we need to first talk about what a clan is, and some common things almost all cultures share so you can include them in your clans.

So what is a Clan?

A clan is a group of people who believe that they share a common ancestor. They are usually a smaller part of a larger society, and often share a unique culture.

For instance your clans will all be a unique different part of the bigger society of the classroom.

**Common Ancestor**

A big part of a clan, is the belief that members of the clan all share a common ancestor. This ancestor could be almost anything, a person, and animal, a spirit or mythical being, there are numerous examples of all of these from different clans around the world.

Members of the Norse Scylding Clan believe that they are descended from Sceaf, a cultural-hero who was said to have washed ashore in an empty boat as a child, and later grew up to become King of the Angles.

Many clans from the pacific islands believe that they are descended from Maui, a demi-god and cultural hero who is said to have created the Hawaiian islands by pulling them out of the sea.

Members of the Nooke Clan of the Anishinaabe, (Native Americans from the great lakes area) believed themselves to be descended from bears.

**Traditional Greeting**

How do you say hello to someone? Do you hug them? Shake their hand? Maybe it depends on who the person is if they are just your friend or one of your parents.

All around the world, cultures have different ways that they traditionally greet someone.

In Tibet you can stick your tongue out at someone to say hello.

In India you might press your palms together over your heart and say “Namaste”

In Japan traditionally you greet someone by bowing.

In the Philippines you greet elders by taking their hand and pressing it too your forehead.

Here we may shake someone’s hand.

The greeting in Botswana is also a handshake however it is more complicated. The handshake ends with you asking “how are you?” to the other person.

**Symbol**

Symbols, are a huge part of almost every culture. A symbol is something that you can see that tells you something, or has a greater meaning.

For example, We consider the Flag of the United states to be a symbol for freedom, and peace. More than that however we also think of the stars on the flag to be symbols for the 50 states, and the stripes on the flag to be symbols for the 12 colonies.

Not every culture views each symbol the same way. Take the stars on the bottom flag for example. This is the flag of the European union. The 12 stars do not represent 12 countries or states like ours, but instead stands for the idea of unity, solidarity and harmony among the countries that make up the EU.

Can anyone here tell me what any of the symbols on the slide stand for?

- Script A = University of Alabama

+ = Add

= = Equals

X = multiply

Divisor = divide
Hogwarts crest, animals stand for the founders, and the qualities they represent, and the houses.

Eagle stands for strength and power, olive branch offering of peace, arrows stand for war and attack.

**Food**

Another big thing that varies among cultures around the world is the kinds of food they eat. These could be traditional foods or even just the things they eat every day. Can anyone think of a few foods that we might consider traditional

American food?

-hot dog

-hamburger

How about Southern Food?

-fried chicken

-sweet potatoes

In Madagascar, rice is considered a staple food, and is eaten in almost every meal, along with a laoka, which is a topping usually a meat, vegetables and some sort of sauce. The picture here shows rice with, pork, and groundnut.

In Scotland, you may eat haggis, which is a traditional food made from sheep’s heart, liver, and lungs, minced with onion, oatmeal, suet and various spices.

**Parts of Your Clan**

So when you create your clan you are going to need work with your clan members to come up with one of each of the cultural traits we looked at.

You will need to pick an Ancestor, this could be a person, or an animal, or a mythical creature.

You will need to make a special greeting, or handshake for your clan.

You will need to pick a clan food. This does not have to be a food, it could be a drink as well if you wish.

You will need to pick a clan Color and give a reason why you chose this color. What does it represent to the clan?

You will need to make a clan symbol, this could be a flag, a crest, or a picture or pattern. Just be sure to incorporate your clan color in someway.

Finally you will want to pick a clan name. You do not have to save this for last, but it might be a good idea, as you never know what you might come up with for your other parts of you clan, and may get inspiration for a good name.