

A pair of hands, one light-skinned and one dark-skinned, are shown holding a small, realistic globe of the Earth. The hands are positioned at the bottom and sides of the globe, with fingers gently cupping it. The globe shows continents and oceans in detail. The background is dark, making the hands and the globe stand out.

Creating A Culturally Responsive Special Education Classroom

A Presentation By:
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Activating Activity



What's the Difference?

Diversity

Recognizes, fosters and develops sensitivity to the needs of students in various identity categories are primary aims of educational diversity.

Culturally Responsive

Acknowledge the presence of culturally diverse students and the need for these students to find relevant connections among themselves and the subject matter and the tasks teachers ask them to perform.



National Snapshot: Where Are We?

Ethnic Category	1998-1999 SY	2008-2009 SY	
Caucasian-American/ White	72%	63%	↓
African-American/ Black	11%	11%	≡
Hispanic	8%	13%	↑

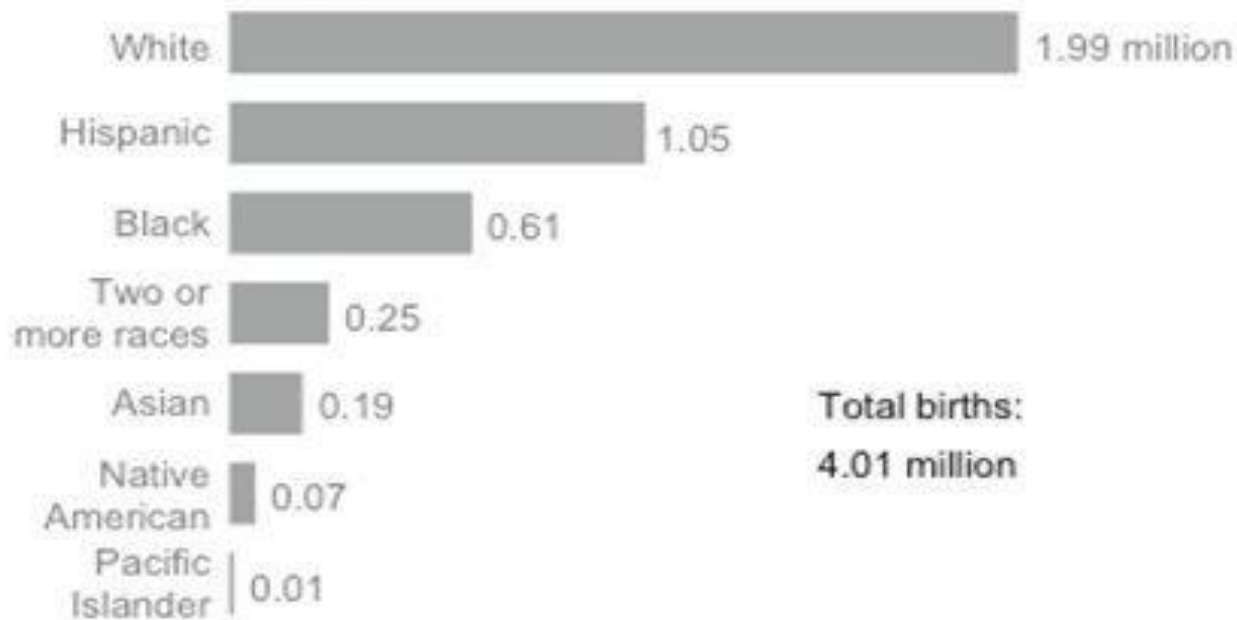


Racial breakdown of U.S. births

Racial and ethnic minorities made up more than half of U.S. births in a 12-month period ending July 2011.

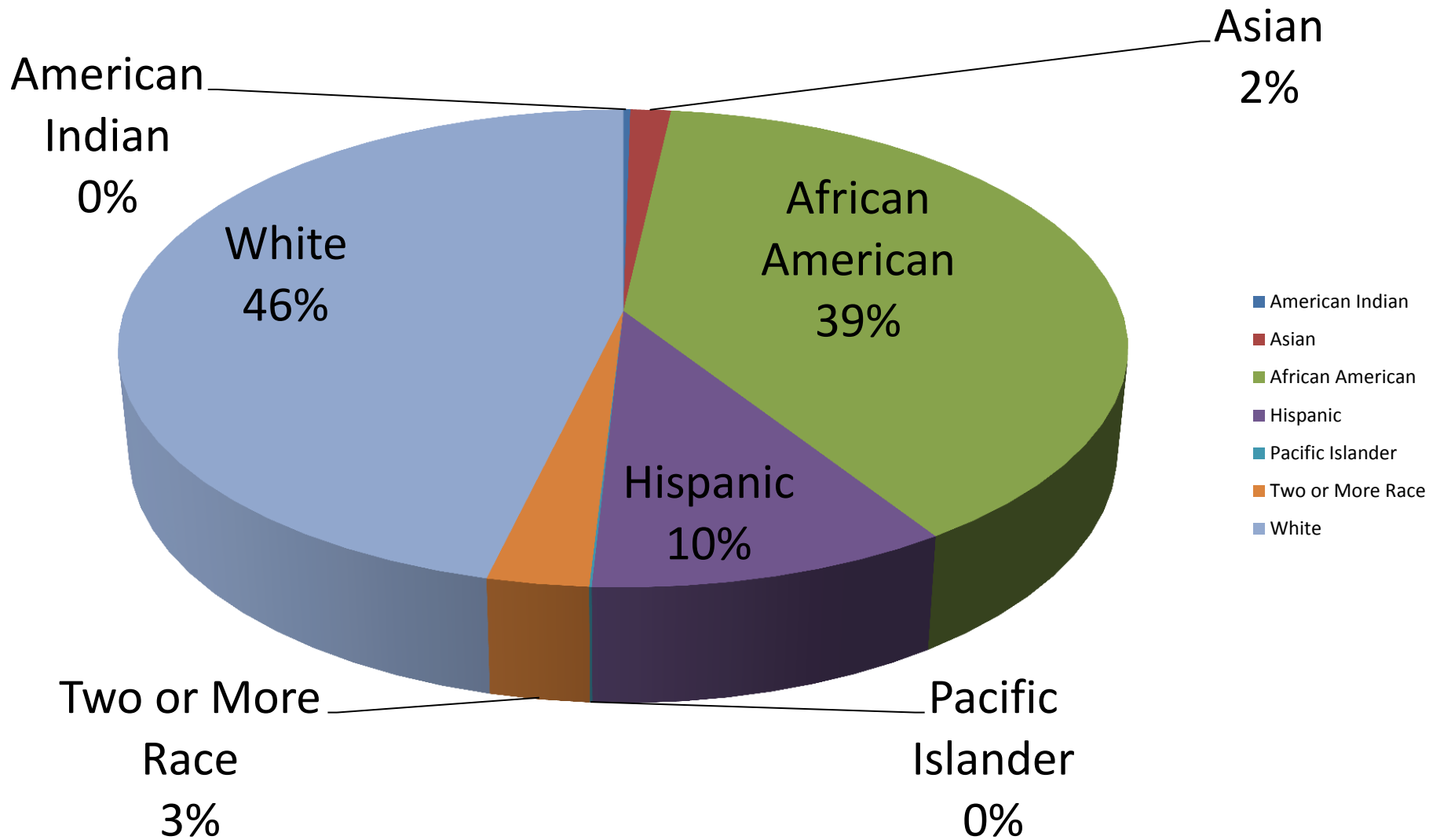


Racial breakdown



Numbers do not add up due to rounding.

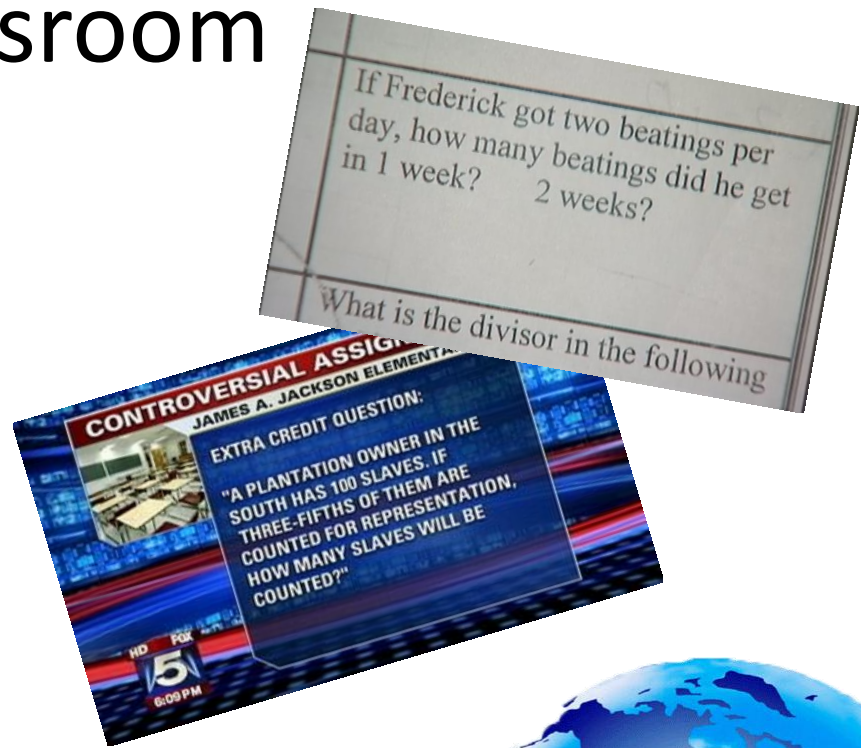
Georgia Special Education Population



Creating Your Culturally Responsive Classroom

It is **not** simply acknowledging ethnic holidays, including popular culture in the curriculum or adopting colloquial speech.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/08/examples-of-slavery-in-school-worksheet_n_1192512.html



Cultural Responsiveness Self-Assessment



A Moment of Reflection

**What were some self-revelations
gained?**





The Pedagogy
behind CR reveals
what **WE** already
know:

most instruction
is centered on
Eurocentric
cultural values

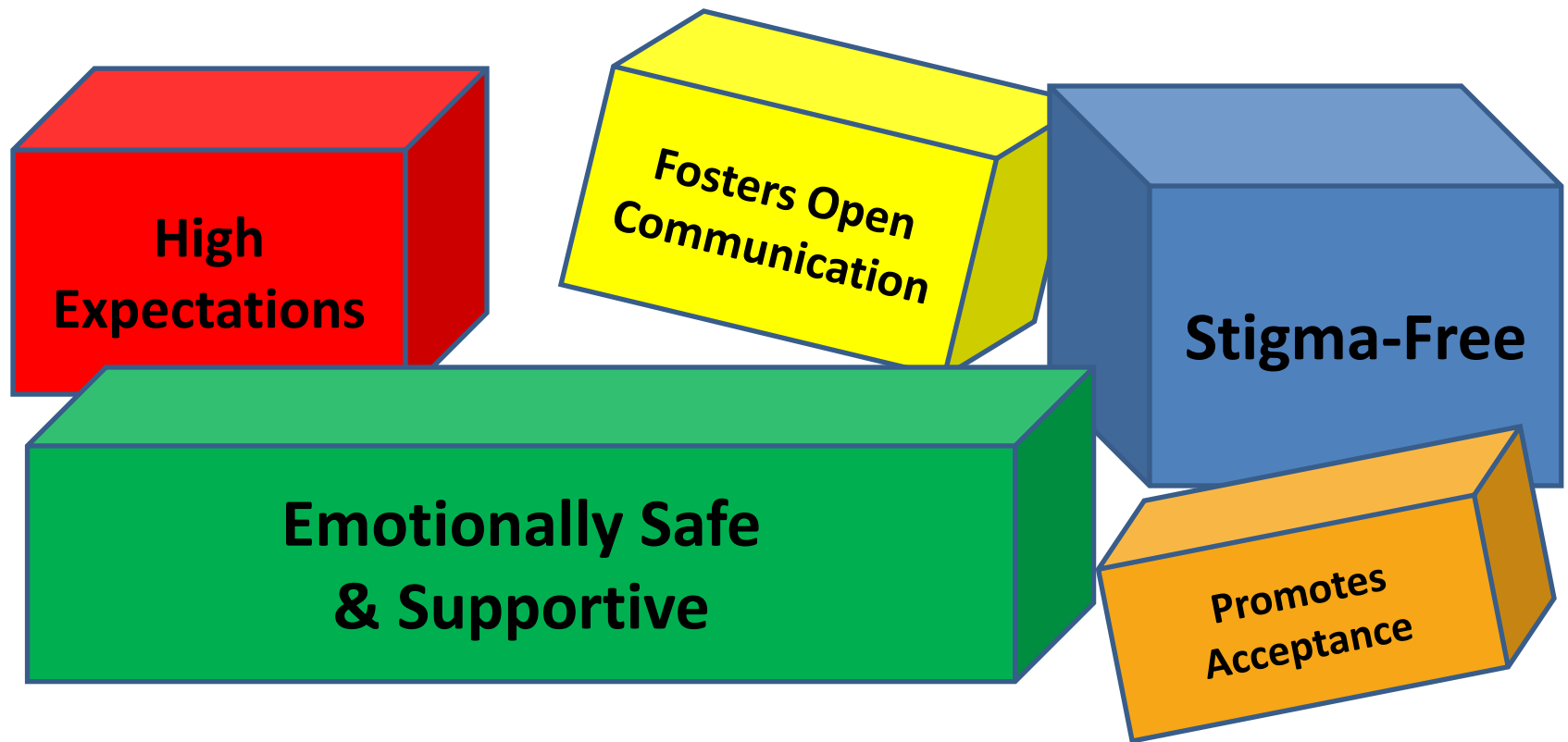
So, how do I start?

1. Appreciation for the cultures represented in **your** school
2. Recognition & validation of **your** student's culture
3. High esteem for self and high regards for others
4. Belief that *all* students will succeed



Building Blocks of Culturally Responsive Classrooms

In CRC the environment is:



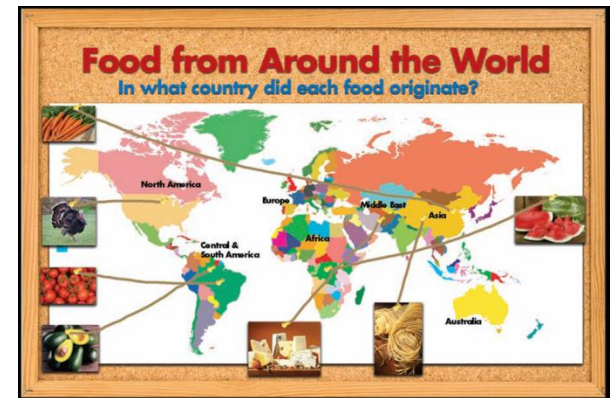
So, what does it look like?

Some indicators of CR in the special education classroom include:



use of texts from diverse cultures

current & relevant bulletin boards



student made posters and artifacts



So, what does it look like?

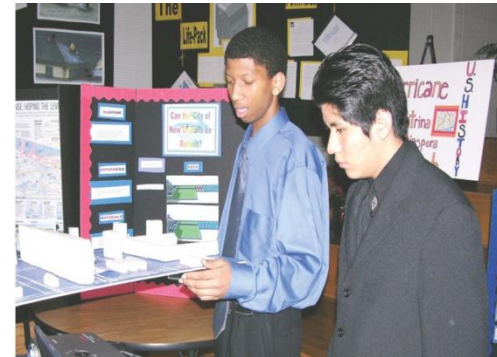
Some additional indicators of CR in the special education classroom include:

Cooperative Learning Groups



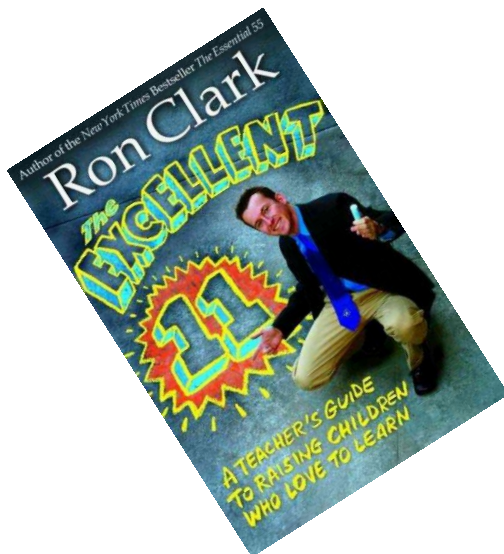
Guided & informal group discussions

Interdisciplinary/ cross-curricular themes and units



Hmmm....

Your learning environment should be representative of the background and culture of the students you teach. - Ron Clark, 2011



Culturally Responsive Teaching Strategies

In CRT some elements are essential because they enhance teaching and learning:

1. Values
2. Communication Styles
3. Learning Styles
4. Contributions
5. Social Problems
6. Levels of Identity Development & Affiliation



Strategic Instruction

Think-aloud Method

Action: Teacher reads a passage and “talks through” the cognitive processes for the students.

Objective: shows students how to ask themselves questions as they develop comprehension of texts.

Highlights: what to do, why, how and when takes advantage of the benefits of modeling



Strategic Instruction

Reciprocal Questioning

Action: student-centered approach where pupils formulate their own list of questions about a reading selection or concept.

Objective: Develop higher-ordered cognitive abilities

Highlights: shared learning through discovery (i.e. math, science), reading, discussion, and questioning



Content Suggestions

Language Arts

- Esperanza Rising by
- Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes
- Grammar sentence structure, figurative language, and writing



Social Studies

- Comparing cultural values and their impacts on history.
- Cause and Effect Relationships
- Writing Systems
- African names
- Asian proverbs
- Mythology



Interdisciplinary Units

- **Connect** content area learning with culturally diverse learning activities
- Designed around **cross-curricular connectedness** with students participating in meaningful reading, writing, computational, listening, and speaking tasks
- Emphasize explicit **connections** among content areas



Content Suggestions

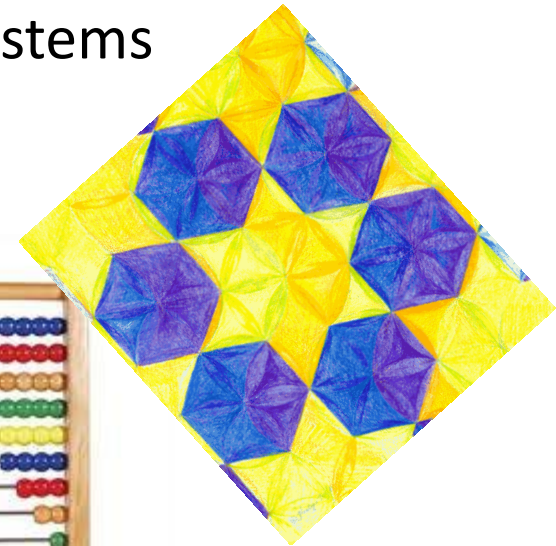
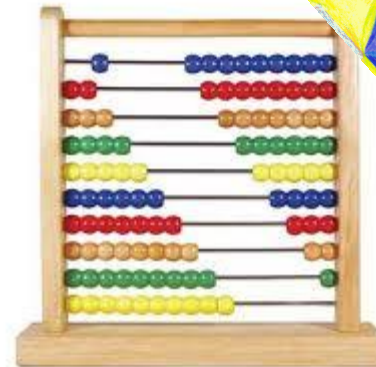
Science

- Discovering DNA
- Discuss how specific genes and traits are unique to different families (i.e. dimples) and ethnic groups (i.e. skin color, sickle cell anemia)
- Physics of sound: using Hinduism and the Tibetan prayer bowls, have students sing



Math

- Expounding on geometry and Islamic art using isometric grids
- Abacus lesson plans to add and subtract small numbers
- Number systems



Scaffolding

- Teacher determines difference between *what students can accomplish independently* and *the learning that needs to be supported*
- Teachers designs instruction that provides just enough scaffolding for students to be able to participate in tasks that are currently beyond their reach.
- Over time, difficult tasks become more attainable for the learner and the teacher can introduce more difficult tasks.



Now its your turn!

Using the ideas we have discussed today, let's create our own culturally responsive lesson plan!



Museum Walk



Let's Discuss!



Questions Anyone?



References

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