Traveling Around the World with Folktales
Grade 2

This Unit combines:

* learning what is a folktale
* reading folktales from several countries,
* learning geography (how many continents, the oceans, identifying each country on a map from which the folktale originated),
* the difference between fiction and non fiction,
* parts of a non fiction book (index, table of contents, glossary)
* how to take notes
* Introduction to National Geographic Kids website (nonfiction internet source)

I begin the Unit mentioning that we will be becoming armchair travelers by “leaving” the library every other week to explore a different country.

Every other week, I introduce a new country. Every two weeks the students:

* hear a folktale read aloud,
* identify the country on a map,
* explore one or two nonfiction books about that country as whole a class via document projector. I model how to use an index and table of contents to find information within the NF country book.
* The students “take notes,” completing the worksheet as we find answers to the questions about each country together.
* Whole class instruction how to use the National Geographic Kids website for additional information on the countries.

The last book I read is from the USA. For timing reasons, I don’t have the students explore the USA as completely as the other countries.

Parts of this unit/lesson can be blended into a more detailed research project on a country.