Visual and Performing Arts: "Ceremonial Dress of the World"

Assignment created by Denise Retter, student teacher, Roseville Unified School District, Roseville, CA

**Topic:** Cultural diversity in patterns and materials used for ceremonial dress from around the world.

**Objectives:** The students will be able to:
1. Identify typical patterns, designs, or motifs and materials used in textiles from at least seven different cultural groups.
2. Understand how to search for research information on the computer through various museum sites.

**Purpose:** To help students understand and appreciate the cultural influences of textile production from various nations and the symbolic representation of textiles as an expression of history, wealth, power and culture.

**Materials:** Teacher will put together packets for each group, providing a different cultural example for each group, i.e. Group 1 - Africa; Group 2 - Thailand; Group 3 - Native America, and so on. Groups should be no later than 4-5. Resources for printing pictures of costumes and ceremonial clothing from a variety of museums, located within the various countries [see resource list for details].

**Enrichment through Vocabulary:** Teacher develops vocabulary list based on research of individual countries. Student groups may contribute to list, based on their research. See vocabulary sections in http://shiningcloth.ucdavis.edu and this unit.

**Activity # 1:** Students are placed in groups of 4-5, teacher assigns group responsibilities, i.e., facilitator, recorder, reporter and materials manager. The materials manager picks up packets from teacher.

**Activity # 2:** Packets contain information from various locations from around the world. Each packet gives the assignment to find examples of:

1. The ceremonial robe or garment commonly identified in the country.
2. Materials used in production.
3. Pattern or motif significance (is it royal? position of wealth? religious?).
4. Examples of color and design.
5. Any other significant information, such as are the materials woven, knitted, and who wears them? Men? Women?

**Activity # 3:** Students will report what they learned from their group packet.

**Activity # 4:** Students will be assigned to research textile production from a country not covered in their group. Students will be expected to use the library, computer and Web sites, etc.

**Activity # 5:** Students will provide an annotated list of resources for the research, i.e., Web site addresses.

**Activity # 6:** After completing their research, students will be expected to produce an 18" x 24" drawing, painting, or graphic representation of a pattern, design, or motif that is representational of the country they researched.

**Review and Closure:**
Students will review their findings with the class, and display their artwork.