

*The Montessori Journey*  
A Study in Language and Culture

**“It is not enough for the teacher to restrict herself to loving and understanding the child; she must first love and understand the universe.” *Maria Montessori, MD***

We know that all schools will cover “reading, writing and arithmetic”, but what sets us apart and is the cornerstone of Montessori is our Cultural Studies. Our goal is to develop a global perspective through the study of world cultures. There is an increasing awareness of the importance of teaching students to recognize and value the similarities and differences of different cultures and people from around the world.

### **Cultural Studies**

The aim of studying culture is to allow the child to experience their place in the universe. In Geography, the children learn how and where people live around the world. They use beautiful globes and maps and as a primary student learn the continents and then the countries, and states. They learn the location of rivers and mountains while associating cultures with these geographic areas. The children study landforms and how those landforms originated and how they impact daily living. As they acquire the geography skills necessary to understand the earth, they want to know what everything is. We use this natural curiosity to introduce new vocabulary. And as elementary students, they do research on areas of interest.

- **Pre-Primary:** Sandpaper Globe; Air, Land and Water; Objects and Animals that belong in Air, Land or Water.
- **Primary:** Colored Globe; Continent Maps; States in the U.S.; and Cultures and Geology.
- **Elementary:** Coming of Human Beings and Timeline of Man.

Initially in Science, children develop an understanding of the differences between living and non-living things, vertebrates and invertebrates along with fun facts about insects, spiders, *etc.* and develop a curiosity for how things work and why they work. The children learn different parts of a sunflower (the stamen, pistil, corolla, stem and leaf) and the cycle from seed to flower to seed. In Science, children begin with simple experiments and are introduced to sink and float, magnetic and non-magnetic and progress to more advanced experiments. Elementary students have a fascination with the universe and the solar system and this evolves naturally to zoology, geology, and the study of the planets.

- **Pre-Primary:** Vocabulary for things in nature and developing a curiosity and love for all living things.
- **Primary:** Physical Science, Zoology and Botany.
- **Elementary:** Creation of the Cosmos, Coming of Life and the Timeline of Life.