



Cultures Aren't Costumes Checklist!



By Emi Ito, Ethnic Studies Teacher on Special Assignment, Bay Area Educator

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Many people in our community love Halloween and the magic of dressing up. Part of creating a safe school community for ALL students on Halloween is making sure racially, ethnically, and culturally based costumes are NOT part of our festivities.
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We invite families to consider the Cultures are not Costumes checklist below:

✓ **RESEARCH**

Learn about anti-racist practices by reading, watching, and listening to testimonials created by people from communities impacted by cultural appropriation and racism. To get started, a few resources are shared on pg 2.



✓ **REFLECT**

Think about how your family can be a part of ending racism and the cycle of harm caused by cultural appropriation. While some people might not be offended by a racially or ethnically based costume, some people are. Raising empathetic humans means we do not ignore harm when it is present; instead we encourage curiosity, asking questions, and understanding another perspective more fully.



✓ **DISCUSS**

Talk with your family about what kind of creative costumes you can make or purchase that will avoid cultural appropriation and still feel fun and respectful to wear!

✓ **ACT**

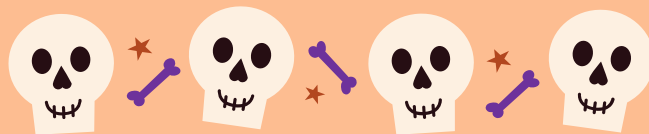
Interrupt cultural appropriation by committing to anti-racist practices in your home. Appreciating cultures, not appropriating them takes time, humility, and openness. There are many other ways to appreciate cultures that do not involve borrowing another person's heritage or special cultural garments for a day of dress-up.

Building an anti-racist world includes all of us taking action in our homes, our schools, and our communities.

Let's not get stuck in the sticky web of racism this Halloween!

Cultures are NOT costumes!

We also invite our amazing caregivers to explore the resources below as a way to help nurture a safer, more inclusive anti-racist community for all of our children!



Click on the book by Tiffany Jewell to visit her website.



Click on the book by Ijeoma Oluo



The Conscious Kid website and Instagram account



Visit Embrace Race to deepen your conversations about race

Click on the video to watch and learn more

