



## My Family from Italy

Grades K–4

---

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

---

Julia McMeans, M.Ed.

Curriculum Specialist, Schlessinger Media

---

### Families Around The World Video Series

---

includes these 24 programs:

- MY FAMILY FROM BRAZIL
- MY FAMILY FROM GREENLAND
- MY FAMILY FROM NEW YORK CITY
- MY FAMILY FROM BURKINA FASO
- MY FAMILY FROM ICELAND
- MY FAMILY FROM SERBIA-MONTENEGRO
- MY FAMILY FROM CHILE
- MY FAMILY FROM INDIA
- MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA
- MY FAMILY FROM CHINA
- MY FAMILY FROM ISRAEL
- MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA
- MY FAMILY FROM COSTA RICA
- MY FAMILY FROM ITALY
- MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA
- MY FAMILY FROM CUBA
- MY FAMILY FROM JAPAN
- MY FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA
- MY FAMILY FROM JORDAN
- MY FAMILY FROM VIETNAM
- MY FAMILY FROM ENGLAND
- MY FAMILY FROM LAPLAND
- MY INUIT FAMILY FROM CANADA
- MY FAMILY FROM FRANCE
- MY FAMILY FROM LOS ANGELES
- MY XHOSA FAMILY FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Teacher's Guides Included  
and Available Online at:



800-843-3620



Program © 2003 by Marathon/TFO  
Teacher's Guide © 2003 by Schlessinger Media,  
a division of Library Video Company  
P.O. Box 580, Wynnwood, PA 19096 • 800-843-3620  
All rights reserved.

From Asia to Africa, city to suburb, or rural farm to tropical rain forest, the presence of the family is common to all people and present in every culture throughout the world. Studying families from different places helps us to learn and appreciate both the similarities and differences between ourselves and others. Also, through exposure to cultures that are unfamiliar to them, children can learn to be accepting of people, lifestyles and traditions that may be very different from their own. The family — that special group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other — is both explored and celebrated in *Families Around the World*.



## Program Summary

In *My Family from Italy*, students will meet 9-year-old Greta and her family, who live in beautiful Sorrento, a coastal town in southern Italy. Greta, dressed in a plain, white *alba* (dress), is celebrating her First Communion. This is a very important occasion for Greta, and all sixty members of her extended family unite in Sorrento to share this special day with her. During Greta's celebration, she receives many gifts and enjoys singing and dancing with her relatives, many of whom she does not see that often because they live in different countries. Greta's father is a *pizzaiola* or pizza maker. He works in a family-run restaurant, so all of the family members pitch in and help out. Greta is very close to her father who helps her choose her clothes in the mornings, and who takes her to school on the back of his motor scooter.

## Geographical Information

The country of Italy is a boot-shaped peninsula which juts out into the Mediterranean Sea. It is located in south central Europe. Italy has an area of approximately 3 million square kilometers, and is home to nearly 58 million people. Although there are many regional dialects, standard Italian is the country's official language. Italy's many famous cities, including Florence, Rome (its capital), Venice, and Milan are popular tourist destinations, and the country's art, architecture, food and wine are world-renowned.

The coastal town of Sorrento, located in southern Italy, is a popular vacation resort because of its climate. The town is also known for the 14th-century cloister of St. Francis of Assisi, and for its medieval sculpture and classical remains.

## Pre-viewing Discussion

Using a web, brainstorm with your students to determine who they consider to be members of their family. Share with your students that families come in all shapes and sizes and that a family is a group of adults and children who care for, love, protect and help each other. Use the following questions to help students access their thoughts and ideas about families.

- Who do you care for, love and help?
- Who cares for, loves and helps you?
- Does a family member have to be a person who lives with you?

After this discussion, ask students to draw a family portrait which includes all the people who they consider to be members of their family.

## Follow-up Discussion

After viewing the program with your class, discuss the similarities and differences between their families and Greta's. Refer students back to the original definition of a family: *A group of adults and children who care for, love, protect, and help each other.* Ask them to provide examples from the video that demonstrate how this particular family expresses love, shows care and provides help for each other.

## Follow-up Activities

- Divide your class into groups of four. Using red, brown and white construction paper, have each group make a pizza. Assign each group a different fractional part which their pizza must be divided into (i.e., sixths, fourths or eighths). After the pizza has been divided, have students turn each slice over and write the fraction that the slice represents. Encourage groups to share and compare sizes and amounts of slices.
- Teach your students to count to ten, and create a number book in Italian. Each number should be accompanied by an illustration of an Italian food. For instance, the word *uno* could be shown with a picture of one pizza. Italian numbers can be found at: [Italian.about.com/library/weekly/aa042600a.htm](http://Italian.about.com/library/weekly/aa042600a.htm)
- Using a Venn diagram, ask students to compare and contrast Greta's family and social life with their own.
- Ask your students to think of a time when they had to dress in a special way to participate in a family event, explaining what their special clothing was and why they wore it. Younger students could create illustrations of the special clothing they wore. Have them write personal narratives about these particular events.
- Divide your students into groups of four to design an imaginary restaurant. Students can draw pictures of their restaurant, give it a name and create menus.
- Take your class on a trip to a local Italian restaurant to enjoy an authentic Italian lunch!
- Have your students think about what it might be like to have family members living in other parts of the world. Have them write about things they could do to maintain relationships with them.
- Have your students read or listen to an Italian folktale. Ask them to write about or illustrate their favorite parts.

## Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our Web site at [www.LibraryVideo.com](http://www.LibraryVideo.com)

- [www.folkloreandmyth.netfirms.com/italy.html](http://www.folkloreandmyth.netfirms.com/italy.html)  
This Web site provides many printable folktales from Italy.
- [www.enchantedlearning.com/europe/italy/](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/europe/italy/)  
This Web site provides lots of great basic facts about Italy, along with maps and other printouts relating to Italy.

## Suggested Print Resources

- dePaola, Tomie. *Strega Nona*. Simon & Schuster, New York, NY; 1979.
- Frank, Nicole and Josephine Sander Hausam. *Welcome to Italy*. Gareth Stevens, Milwaukee, WI; 2000.
- Hill, Mary. *Let's Make Pizza*. Scholastic Library, New York, NY; 2001.
- King, David C. *Italy: Gem of the Mediterranean*. Benchmark Books, New York, NY; 2000.