

Suggested Print Resources

- Sevastiades, Philemon D. *I Am Eastern Orthodox*. PowerKids Press, New York, NY; 1997.
- Van Eerbeek, Ton. *The World of Farms: An Early Encyclopedia for Beginning Readers*. Sterling Publishing Company, New York, NY; 2002.



My Family from Serbia-Montenegro

Grades K–4

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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Families Around The World Video Series

includes these 24 programs:

- MY FAMILY FROM BRAZIL
- MY FAMILY FROM GREENLAND
- MY FAMILY FROM ICELAND
- MY FAMILY FROM INDIA
- MY FAMILY FROM ISRAEL
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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*.

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Program Summary

In *My Family from Serbia-Montenegro*, students will meet ten-year-old Pavle, his parents, and younger sister, Svetlana. Pavle and his family live on a small farm in a village called Turnia. Everyone in the family pitches in to help out on the farm. Pavle's special responsibility is taking care of the pigs. He also feeds the cows, even though he's a little afraid of them. We join Pavle on January 6th, which is Christmas Eve in the Eastern Orthodox Church. This is an extra special time for Pavle, as it is tradition for one child from the village to ride through town on a horse and cart. This year it is Pavle's turn and although he is proud, he is also a little nervous. As Pavle makes his way through town and past the villagers who come outside to wish him well, he is serenaded by gypsies. After Pavle's special ride through the village, he and his sister, along with all the village children, go from house to house to sing for their neighbors. Then, it is time for the whole family to join together to share a delicious Christmas meal.

Geographical Information

Formed in 1992, Serbia-Montenegro is a small country located in Eastern Europe. The two provinces that comprise this country once belonged, along with four other provinces, to Yugoslavia. The country has a land area of approximately 100,000 square kilometers, and a population of about 6 million. The capital city is Belgrade, and the official language is Serbian.

The Vojvodina region is located in the northern part of the country. It is bordered by Croatia, Hungary and Romania. This region is the agricultural center of the country and supplies much of the country's wheat and corn. The southern part of the Vojvodina region is very industrialized and gas and petroleum extraction are important parts of the economy. Although Belgrade is the capital of the country, Novi Sad is considered the administrative capital of the Vojvodina region.

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 Pavle'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

- Pavle's special job on his family's farm is to take care of the pigs. Have students think about any special things that they are responsible for at home. Students can either write about or illustrate these special things and then share with the class.
- Pavle's best friend is his cousin, Alexandre. Ask students to write special letters to their best friends that tell why the friendship is important, and the particular things they do together, as friends, that they really enjoy.
- Sausages are a favorite in Pavle's house. Have students think of foods that are served in their homes that they especially look forward to eating. Students could bring in food items to have a Favorite Food Day. Alternately, they could compile drawings and recipe information to create a Favorite Food Book.
- Teach a thematic unit on farms. Students can learn about farm life, farm animals, chores that are performed on farms and more!
- Pavle and the other village children go from house to house to sing for their neighbors. Teach students a song, and have them go from classroom to classroom to sing for their peers.
- Cooperation is important to Pavle and his family. Divide your class into groups of four to explore the benefits of cooperation. Students can think of ways in which people cooperate in the classroom, at home and in the community. Students may also consider particular occupations or activities that could not be performed without the cooperation of everyone involved (firefighting, team sports, and restaurant work). Have them think about why cooperation is so important, and the negative consequences that can occur when people do not cooperate. Students could create a dramatic presentation, posters, or essays to show what conclusions they reached.
- Pretend that Pavle is your pen pal. Write him a letter that tells about how your lives are alike and different. Share with him the things that you saw in the video that you would like to participate in if you went for a visit.

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our Web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.atozteacherstuff.com/themes/farm.shtml
This Web site provides many resources for teaching a thematic unit on farms, including suggested readings, printable activities and more!
- www.serbia-info.com/enc/
This is a nice Web site that has information relating to Serbian landscapes, art and history.