



# CHANTS

## INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVE:

Chants are a fun way to engage students while encouraging language fluency and reinforcing important ideas, concepts, and vocabulary.

## RECOMMENDED GRADES:

Adaptable for all grade levels

## ESTIMATED TIME:

10-15 minutes/day

## MATERIALS:

- Chant
- Large chart or butcher paper OR equipment to project a Word document

## PROCEDURE:

1. **Preparation:** Find a chant(s) to use with your students. We have provided 3 here that you can use with your class or as a model from which to create your own. Write the chant on large chart paper that can be displayed in the classroom or create a word document that can be projected onto a screen.
2. Introduce students to the chant. Read it out loud to them at least once. Then have students practice saying it. Depending upon the length and difficulty of the chant, you may want to focus on 2 stanzas first, then add on in subsequent days. Once students are comfortable with the rhythm and language, you can highlight the concepts and vocabulary in the chant. Discuss the various concepts and/or vocabulary to be sure students understand what they are saying in the chant. Students may want to add movements to the chant. If using the strategies in the Cognitive Content Dictionary Chart, have students use the movements they've already created for vocabulary words that appear in the chant.
3. The chant(s) can be used throughout the day. They can be used while the specific unit is being taught, or they can be used at various transitional times such as before recess, lunch or dismissal at the end of the day.

Traditions Here There  
By Regina Rosenzweig and Kate Wyffels

Traditions here, traditions there  
Traditions, traditions everywhere

Dynamic traditions celebrating creatively  
Meaningful traditions influencing quietly  
Symbolic traditions inspiring hopefully  
And spectacular traditions gathering excitedly

Traditions in Soviet Union and China  
Traditions from the Pueblo Nations  
Traditions around Ghana, Africa  
Traditions throughout Mexico  
And traditions from all over the world!

Traditions! Traditions! Traditions!

Traditions  
(Sung to the tune of “The Ants Go Marching”)  
By Gloria Velarde

Traditions are important to us. . . Hooray! Hooray!  
Traditions are important to us. . . Hooray! Hooray!  
We practice them day to day,  
From them we have a lot of say,  
They shape our culture. . . today, today!

Traditions and culture integrate. . . Hooray! Hooray!  
Traditions and culture integrate. . . Hooray! Hooray!  
From them we learn to celebrate  
And observe important holidays,  
And traditions unite us. . . today, today!

Traditions teach diversity. . . Hooray, Hooray!  
Traditions teach diversity. . . Hooray, Hooray!  
We learn about how people live  
The more we learn, the more we give,  
It makes us a better world, in which to live. . .  
Today! Today! Today! Today!

Día de los Muertos: Welcoming la Familia  
To the tune of The Addams Family

Day of the Dead  
Snap snap  
Day of the Dead  
Snap snap  
Day of the Dead  
Day of the Dead  
Day of the Dead  
Snap snap

It's Día de los Muertos,  
Our doors are abiertos.

There's altars for remembering  
The loved ones who are lingering.

They follow the smell of flowers,  
They visit after hours.

Amamos los ancestros,  
They're all our family.

Day of the Dead  
Snap snap  
Day of the Dead

Snap snap  
Day of the Dead  
Day of the Dead  
Day of the Dead  
Snap snap

There's lots of celebration  
Among the population.

We all make the ofrendas  
Hoping they will send us

Memories, love and laughter  
And all our family.

Day of the Dead  
Snap snap  
Day of the Dead  
Snap snap  
Day of the Dead  
Day of the Dead  
Day of the Dead  
Snap snap

There's marigolds, salt and water,  
And sugar skulls in color.

We make papel picado  
To honor the amados

We eat the pan de muerto  
With all our family.