In a time when the world is becoming flatter, and communications is a click away, students need to understand both their culture and those of others. CultureQuest programs are web based inquiry-based investigations of other peoples and cultures that are rooted in student questions and based upon student interests. For students, Culture Quest projects may:

- Focus on foreign cultures
- Focus on American culture and/or American subcultures
- Focus on the diverse cultural heritages of the students
- Compare and contrast any of these cultures.

This presentation will demonstrate how preservice and K-12 students using the Culture Quest model, e-pals, the Internet, video conferencing and the Culture Quest Network of schools are able to make cultural connections with other schools and validations of their cultural ideas and projects.

The Culture Quest Process includes the following steps:

- Decide on target culture
- Brainstorm what students know about the culture
- Brainstorm what students want to know about the culture
- Cover the core areas with whole class
- Use ePals.com to find classrooms
- Students communicate with counterparts using e-mail on ePals.com
- Divide students into small groups by interest area
- Students prepare and send “Welcome Packages”—videos, artifacts, postal cards, coins, etc.

In gathering information, students use books and library resources, use internet resources, explore resources in own city/community, museums, people (oral history), visit neighborhoods (shops, restaurants, etc.), cultural centers, E-mail to students and/or adult experts. Students also acquire the following technology skills in the process: Graphic Organizers (Inspiration), Internet Basics (searching, evaluation, citation), Web Page creation, Web Editing and Uploading/managing website.