



Diversity in America

by Jan Thomas

Name



We live in the United States of America. Many people call our country "America" or "the USA."



Diversity simply means that we are all very different.



Americans come from many different places.
Americans look different. Some have dark skin.
Some have light skin.



Americans speak differently. Some have southern accents, some have a city twang. Some speak English. Some do not.



Americans have different religious beliefs. Some go to church. Some go to a temple. Some go to a mosque. Some show their faith in other ways.



Americans like different foods. Some like Chinese food. Some like Italian food like pizza and spaghetti. Some Americans are vegetarians. Some Americans like steak and potatoes.



Americans wear different clothes. Some wear clothes that are a part of their religion. Some wear clothes to be a part of a team or a group. Some wear uniforms.



Americans live in different places. Some Americans live in the city, with crowded streets, tall buildings, and lots of people. Some Americans live in the country where there are mostly farms and animals. Other Americans live in cozy suburban neighborhoods with sidewalks and green grass yards.



Americans celebrate different holidays. Some Americans celebrate Christmas, while others celebrate Hannukah or Kwanzaa. Some celebrate feasts like Thanksgiving and Id-al-Fitr. Some celebrate birthdays, while others do not.



You are a member of your family. Some families have both a mom and a dad. Some families are different from that. Some families have only a mom, or just a grandma. Some families have moms, dads, aunts, uncles, grandmas, grandpas, and cousins all living together. Families are different.



You are a member of your neighborhood. Some neighborhoods are in the city. They have lots of apartments and houses that are close together. Some neighborhoods have sidewalks, and big yards, and the houses are far apart. Still other neighborhoods are in the country. Many people in the country are farmers. Neighborhoods are different.



You are part of your classroom. Your classroom may be large or it may be small. It may have just one grade, like 2nd grade, or it may have several grades in one room. Some students actually live at their schools – these are called boarding schools. Some classrooms are in people's homes. Some classrooms have desks, and some have tables. There are even some classrooms that take place in front of the computer. Classrooms are different.



You are part of a school. Each school is different. Some are large, and some are small. Some are for little kids, and some are for big kids. Schools are different.



You are part of your city. Your city may be large or small. It may be filled with tall building and apartments, or just a small main street with a few stores. Your city may be big or it may be small. Cities are different.



We all live in a home but not every home is a house. Our home may be an apartment, or a huge mansion. It may be a nice house with a big yard, or a condo on the fifth floor. Some people live in trailers or RVs. There are even some people that have more than one home.



We can see that Americans are different in many ways, but how are we alike?



We share one very important thing. We share a belief that all people have certain rights.



**We believe that all people have the right to live
and that all people have the right be free.**



We believe that all people have the right to try to be happy.



We also believe that all people should be treated fairly under our laws.



In this way, all Americans are the same.