



# Cinderella Teacher Activity Packet



The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future  
Presented by the Dallas Puppet Theater



# Cinderella Teacher Activity Packet

**Title of lesson:** A tale of Cinderella around the world

## **Overview and Objectives:**

Observe the list of Cinderella stories from around the world. After reading various Cinderella stories, the students will locate each country of origin on a map. As a bulletin board and/or individual activity, the students can create a map with a map key to identify each country and the title of their Cinderella story.

## **Background Information for Teachers:**

Cinderella, a story at least 1,000 years old, is the best-known and best-loved of all fairy tales. Cinderella is a popular fairy tale embodying a classic folk tale myth-element of unjust oppression and triumphant reward. The tale has been found in North America, Scandinavia, Africa, the Middle and Far East, Asia and around the Mediterranean, with over 500 versions having been identified within Europe. The ancient Greco-Egyptian version of Cinderella, where her name is Rhodopis, is considered the oldest version of the story. The tale was first recorded by the Greek historian Strabo in the first century BC. The most popular version of Cinderella was written by the French author Charles Perrault in 1697, based on an earlier literary fairy tale by Giambattista Basile (*La Gatta cenerentola* in 1634). Another well-known version in which the girl is called Ann del Tacloor Anne of Tacloban was recorded by the German Brothers Grimm in the 19th century. The story has continued to be reworked and updated around the world.

## **Materials and resources:**

- A blank world map
  - Markers, crayons, pens, paint & paintbrushes or colored pencils
  - Blank paper
  - Magazines to get pictures from
  - Scissors
  - Glue/tape
  - A plain shoe
  - List of Cinderella stories from around the world (see below)
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- **Books:**
    1. Brucker, Meredith Babeaux. "Anklet for a Princess: A Cinderella Story from India." Shen's Books: November 2002. ISBN: 978-1885008206
    2. Climo, Shirley. "The Egyptian Cinderella." HarperTrophy: December 1991. ISBN: 978-0064432795
    3. Climo, Shirley. "The Korean Cinderella." HarperTrophy: February 1996. ISBN: 978-0064433976
    4. Climo, Shirley. "The Persian Cinderella." HarperTrophy: August 2001. ISBN: 978-0064438537

5. Coburn, Jewell Reinhart. "Domitila: A Cinderella Tale from the Mexican Tradition." Shen's Books: February 2000. ISBN: 978-1885008138
6. Cole, Babette. "Prince Cinders." Putnam Juvenile: April 1997. ISBN: 978-0698115545
7. Daly, Jude. "Fair, Brown & Trembling: An Irish Cinderella Story." Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR): February 2005. ISBN: 978-0374422578
8. Hollenbeck, Kathleen. "Teaching With Cinderella Stories From Around the World." Teaching Resources: March 2003. ISBN: 978-0439188432
9. Jackson, Ellen. "Cinder Edna." HarperTrophy: September 1998. ISBN: 978-0688162955
10. Kurtz, John. "Jump at the Sun: Cinderella - Fairy Tale Classics." Jump At The Sun; New Ed edition: August 2004. ISBN: 978-0786809554
11. Lowell, Susan. "Cindy Ellen: A Wild Western Cinderella." HarperTrophy: December 2001. ISBN: 978-0064438643
12. Minters, Frances. "Cinder-Elly." Puffin: April 1997. ISBN: 978-0140561265
13. Pollock, Penny. "The Turkey Girl: A Zuni Cinderella Story." Little, Brown Young Readers; 1st edition: April 1996. ISBN: 978-0316713146
14. San Souci, Robert D. "Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella." Aladdin: January 2002. ISBN: 978-0689848889
15. Schroeder, Alan. "Smoky Mountain Rose: An Appalachian Cinderella." Puffin: May 2000. ISBN: 978-0140566734
16. Sierra, Judy. "Cinderella (The Oryx Multicultural Folktale Series)." Oryx Press: July 1992. ISBN: 978-0897747271
17. Steptoe, John. "Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters." Amistad; 1st edition: 1987. ISBN: 978-0688040451

**Points of Discussion:**

- 1.) Gender Roles
  - a. Describe the Cinderella main character in this story. Tell what she or he looks like and does.
  - b. What is the role of a woman in the society that begat one version of the Cinderella story?
  - c. What is the role of a man in that same society?
  - d. Do other variations provide a look at other societies' views of gender roles?
- 2.) Family Life

- a. Describe Cinderella's family situation in the story.
  - b. How does this aspect of the story vary amongst the different versions of the fairy tale?
- 3.) Describe Cinderella's friends and helpers. Compare and contrast these characters amongst the various versions of the story.
  - 4.) Describe your favorite part and tell why you liked it.
  - 5.) What main idea do you get out of this story?
  - 6.) Why do you think that people around the world have this similar story?
  - 7.) Do you think these kinds of stories really happen in real life?
  - 8.) Are there stereotypes (i.e., oversimplified generalizations) in the stories of Cinderella?
    - a. Racial/Ethnic
    - b. Gender
    - c. Age

**Project ideas:**

- Draw or paint your favorite character. Show what they did in the story.
- Invent a new character and draw what they would do in your version of the story.
- If you were a character in the story, what would you do? Collage or draw this.
- Draw a self-portrait as one of the characters in Cinderella. Label the self-portrait with your favorite qualities about yourself, such as "honest," "kind," "friendly," "helpful," etc.
- Write a letter to one of the characters. Give them advice about how to act in the story.
- Instead of glass, what else could Cinderella's shoes have been made of? Make a collage or paint a picture of what her shoes would be like if they were made of fur, feathers, clay, metal, leaves, flowers, etc. Or collage or decorate a real shoe.
- Instead of a pumpkin, what else could Cinderella's carriage have been made of? Show what her carriage would look like if it were made of another kind of food/vegetable. Or show what it would look like if she used another kind of container, like a milk carton, tea cup, basketball, etc. Some of these ideas might work as a 3-D art project.

**Additional Activities:**

- **Cinderella Sequence Cards**
  - Students can color and cut out 10 scenes from the story and arrange them in order.