



Birthdays Around the World

Margriet Ruurs , Ashley Barron (Illustrations)

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Everyone in the world has a birthday. But birthdays are not celebrated in the same way everywhere. Meet Mercedes in Peru, who eats a cake and a purple pudding called mazamorra morada. Ieva in Latvia is raised in the birthday chair, one lift for each year. And rather than celebrating his own birthday, Phúc Khang in Vietnam joins in the festivities during Tet, when everyone in the country turns one year older. Based on interviews with real people, award-winning author Margriet Ruurs tells the unique stories of how seventeen children from all around the globe celebrate a birthday, including how they each say happy birthday in their native language. Following the memorable stories, children are invited to compare their own birthday traditions with the ones they've learned about in the book.

Birthdays can be a yearly highlight and a shared experience for children, which make them a perfect subject for introducing different customs around the world. As with all the titles in the bestselling Around the World series, this fascinating book provides cross-curricular applications in language arts, global studies and geography. Ashley Barron's beautiful cut-paper collage artwork adds a contemporary, stylized feel to the pages. Enriching the reading experience are a world map that pinpoints all the locations of the children in the book; a two-page spread containing six activities that facilitate a closer reading of the text; and a glossary containing translations, pronunciations and foreign scripts for the foreign words and phrases in the book.

Birthdays Around the World Details

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From Reader Review Birthdays Around the World for online ebook

Becky B says

A survey of 15 different cultures around the world and how a child there would celebrate their birthday including any special traditions and foods. In the back of the book is a glossary and pronunciation guide to foreign words and phrases that appear, like how each culture wishes someone a happy birthday.

This book includes a broad range of different traditions from personal birthday parties, to cultures where you give gifts instead of receive them, to cultures where a personal birthday isn't celebrated as much as a certain time when everyone turns older. It's a pretty good sampling of celebrations across the spectrum of possibilities. I also liked that through this you get introduced to special celebratory foods in each culture. And don't miss the glossary/pronunciation guide in the back where you can learn how to correctly say those food names and birthday wishes. Definitely will be eye-opening for many kids. Great resource for curious kids or classes studying different cultures. We will definitely be ordering this for our international school.

I received an ARC of this title from the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Donna Maguire says

5 stars!! I thought that this was a great book to buy as a present for a child on their birthday to give them something a bit more unusual. Its a great way to learn more about different cultures and lots of learning points and tips at the back of the book too for parents and teachers.

Lynn says

For me, the most interesting thing about this book is the introduction to various types of script.

Laura says

I think this is such a fantastic idea - so educational. The author shares birthday traditions of 17 different children from around the world, with a map at the beginning showing where the children are from, which is really helpful. Each double-page spread briefly introduces the child and where they are from, how to say Happy Birthday in their native language, and then describes their birthday traditions. Alongside the text (not too much and not too little), there are some fun illustrations in a style that makes the images look like cut-outs, and great use of white space for placement of the text.

This is a great book for showing children that everyone in the world has different traditions that they live by, and that there is no one particular 'normal'. It introduces a variety of different countries which some young people may not have heard of. Helpfully, there are two pages at the end of the book for parents and teachers to prompt educational questions based on the text, as well as a glossary with pronunciations of all of the Happy Birthdays in different languages. I learned a lot from this book myself, so this'll be a great one for kids!

Mehsi says

I received this book from Netgalley in exchange of an honest review.

I just adore birthdays. They are so fun, and I can't wait for my birthday (and these days for my boyfriend's birthday) to come. So of course I had to read this book, I already knew a bit about Birthday celebrations throughout the globe, but I was curious to see if there were a few that I didn't know yet.

And yes, I found a few new traditions. It was quite interesting to read that in Jamaica they throw flour over someone's head, or that in Latvia they bump up your chair, one bump for each year!

I also liked that the author started with the name, then the place, and then also added the Birthday wishes (like for Hawaii/Hawaiian: Hau'oli lā hānau). Plus that they added the names for all the games, food, and other things in the original language. In the back you can find a glossary with what all those words mean (and how to pronounce them).

The only thing I didn't like that much was the fact that some weren't technically birthdays. But rather a national holiday. While in the end I appreciated that it was added, I still wish they had kept to birthday birthdays instead.

The book is also illustrated, and I quite like the style. It looks a bit like, instead of drawing, someone cut out shapes from coloured paper and formed the illustrations that way.

I quite liked this book, and I would recommend it to everyone who loves birthdays, or just wants to know more about them.

Review first posted at <https://twirlingbookprincess.com/>

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

Margriet Ruurs shares birthday traditions of children from 17 different countries around the world. . Each two-page spread introduces the child and where they are from. It tells how to say Happy Birthday in their native language, and then describes their birthday traditions. These traditions always include food served and whether or not their are gifts given or received. It was interesting to see that there are many countries that do not celebrate the actual day of their birth. In some countries they do not know their actual birthday, and in others everyone celebrates on the same day. The text is not too difficult or detailed, there is just enough to hold the interest of children and give them some basic information. There is also a wonderful map of the world at the beginning of the book showing where the children are from so you can see where these countries are. There are some fun illustrations by Ashley Barron done in a beautiful cut-paper collage artwork that adds interest to the book.

This is a great book for showing children that everyone in the world has different traditions/customs that they live by, and that there is no one particular 'normal'. It introduces a variety of different countries which some young people may not have heard of. This is a great book to use in primary grades when they are learning about celebrations and traditions. As the description says, this book provides cross-curricular applications in language arts, global studies and geography. The back of the book contains a two-page spread with various

activities that facilitate a closer reading of the text and a glossary containing translations and pronunciations. This is a great book for public, school and class libraries. There is a lot to learn here as well as peaking the interest of the reader to search out more about the countries and customs mentioned. The publisher generously provided me with a copy of this book via Netgalley.

Ilonita50 says

I received the e-arc of the book thanks to Kids Can Press!

I loved Birthdays Around the World as the book was interesting to all the details about each of the country and its traditional ways of celebrating Birthdays, including specific drawings that describes the national customs. I enjoyed random selection of countries and the customs, it covers Latvian, Vietnamese, Lesotho and more, not the customs you hear about every other day or on most trips/ travel guides which are advertised.

The book has cute and lovely drawings, educational for young kids to raise international communication interest and seek to know the World Map and play naming countries games. It provides a parental guidance how to use the book interactive way and how to rise the interest of different customs around the word and maybe even around the neighborhood where you live.

I, as an adult found it interesting! Finally I got to know what meaning is means when Indians place milk, flowers on the temple. There are countries where a special costume is worn during the special day, in some countries, the birthday is not celebrated the traditional way and some has detailed difference in customs than the other nationalities.

Rebecca says

I won this book from a Goodreads Giveaway.

Having three young nieces and nephews, as well as friends with young children, this book stood out to me as a wonderful gift for them. Wonderful illustrations and loaded with information about how people around the world celebrate their birthdays. And best of all, there's a glossary at the end to help the reader properly pronounce some of the tougher words.

Overall a great book, and one I'd recommend to anyone!

January Gray says

Incredibly fascinating book! Not only did my kids learn about how birthdays around the world are celebrate, but my husband and I did as well.

Sally says

Lovely book with various birthday celebrations from around the world. Some familiar - cake, presents, songs; some different - traditions like chair-raising and flouring the birthday person's head; some not even birthdays at all - name days, king's birthday, new year, celebration day for all 3/5/7-year olds, baby's first month. Very fun to read, and the illustrations are just beautiful!

Amanda Sanders says

I saw this title and thought "Ugh, another around the world book" but this one was different. I felt like I was reading short stories for children instead of boring facts about birthdays around the world. Each country represented has a specific child from that country that tells what celebrating birthdays is like where they live. I was disappointed there were no pronunciation guides in each section, but there is a pronunciation key for the difficult words in the glossary at the back of the book. There is also a section with ideas for teachers and parents. This non fiction book on birthdays around the world was very entertaining.

Ama says

A great introduction to birthday customs around the world. While I love that birthday phrases in the various languages are included, I noticed that the punctuation was incorrect for the phrase in Spanish (no upside-down ! at the beginning of the sentence).

Liza Tabita says

A great book that can be used at children's birthday, on an intercultural day or on children's day ! It is a great way to celebrate and learn about people all over the world even if they are not in our class.

Barbra says

A fun book with great illustrations and info about everybody's birthdays. We all have them but around the world they are unique in tradition.

Magy says

Birthdays Around the World is a fun look into how kids from 14 different countries celebrate their birthdays. From parties with cakes or piñatas to giving out treats to friends to dancing to not even celebrating your specific day of birth but another time, Birthdays Around the World shows that there are all kinds of ways to celebrate!

*A copy of this book was provided free of charge for an honest review.
