



REEEC

Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center
University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign

Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

Designing your own Georgian *Khevsurian Chokha*

20 minutes prep, 30 minutes of class time

This unit is designed to allow students to learn more about the country of Georgia and traditional clothing found in the part of the world known as the Caucasus. Students will be introduced to the country of Georgia and a regional woolen coat known as a *chokha*. They will then learn about a specific type of *chokha* that is found in Georgia, called the *khevsurian chokha*. They will then be able to decorate their own *chokha* with traditional colors and patterns, using colored pencils, markers, or crayons.

Required Materials:

1. A printed out image of a *chokha* (provided)
2. Markers, crayons, or colored pencils to decorate the *chokha*.

Preparation: Place one print out of a *chokha* at each place, along with the coloring instrument of your choosing.

Lesson Plan:

1. Begin by asking the children what country we live in, and then help them locate that country on a map or globe. Then show them where the country of Georgia is on a map/globe. (2 mins)
2. Use the printed images to introduce the class to Georgia, showing pictures of the capital city, Tbilisi, and the mountainous terrain of the country. Students will also be shown images of the Khevsureti region of Georgia, where these specific *chokha* are worn. (5 mins)
3. Explain to students that throughout the country, you will find a type of traditional clothing called the *chokha*, which is a woolen coat with a high neck. The *khevsurian chokha* dates back to medieval times and is decorated with many different colors and shapes. Sometimes the color of the *chokha* depends on how old the person is who is wearing it, but normally it features black, white, red, blue, gray, and brown colors. Show students images of people wearing the *chokhas* and closeups of the decorations found on them.
4. Explain the activity to the class (10 mins):
 - a. Each student will receive a blank *chokha* that they will decorate using markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
 - b. Be sure that the students have reference images of patterns and colors found on *khevsurian chokhas* to inspire them as they decorate their own *chokha*.

