

Culturally Relevant Curriculum - Key Definitions

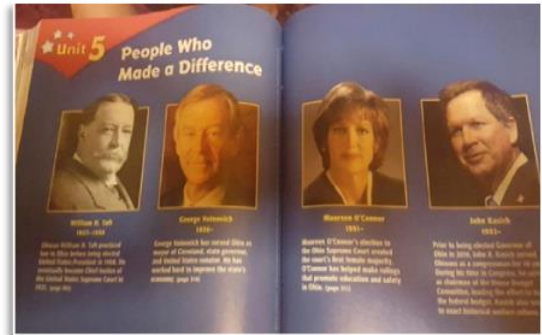
Curriculum - the lessons and academic content taught in a school or in a specific course or program; the courses that are taught by a school or college.

Pedagogy - the science and art of education, specifically instructional theory; the art or science of teaching; instructional methods.

Culture - the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group; also the characteristic features of everyday existence (as diversions or a way of life shared by people in a place or time).

Culturally Relevant Teaching- pedagogy that empowers students intellectually, socially, emotionally, and politically by using cultural referents to impart knowledge, skills, and attitudes. Culturally relevant teaching essentially means that teachers create a bridge between students’ home and school lives, while still meeting the expectations of the district and state curricular requirements.

Cultural Resistance is the broad use of artistic expression (meanings and symbols)—such as song, dance, poetry, storytelling or traditional practices—to fight oppression and combat a dominant power, often constructing a different vision of the world in the process. *(definition from Ruth Idakula)*



An example of culturally irrelevant curriculum, this textbook only features examples of white people as “People Who Made a Difference”.



Schools should integrate cultural traditions of all the students in their classrooms, not just euro-centric holidays and celebrations.

The Centric Idea

“Through observations, inquiry, and discussion, I’ve found that children who are centered in their own cultural information are better students, more disciplined, and have greater motivation for school work.”

Dr. Molefi Asante, Article: Afro-centric Curriculum, Educational Leadership, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development