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# People





## Synopsis

A celebration of diverse world cultures from the brilliant Peter Spier, one of the most beloved children's illustrators of the last 50 years. In this breathtaking tour around the world, young readers can pore over the many details that make each country and culture unique and special—illuminated by Spier's detailed and witty illustrations of festivals and holidays, foods, religions, homes, pets, and clothing. In print since 1980, this classic, boundary-pushing book is a must-have in today's global age—a tribute to the ways in which we as the world's citizens are at once both different and the same. "The Caldecott Medalist has created his most ambitious and impressive picture book so far, with minutely detailed and exquisite paintings of human beings on all four continents." Publishers Weekly, starred review. "A wonderful introduction to a global view that will answer and arouse curiosity in the young and act as an absorbing reminder for any age." School Library Journal **★ ★ ★ The Christopher Award ★ An American Bookseller Pick of the Lists**

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 440L (What's this?)

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Doubleday Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (April 1, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 038524469X

ISBN-13: 978-0385244695

Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 0.2 x 13 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 111 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #32,594 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in [Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Body](#) #167 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#) #239 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World](#)

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

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continents." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review."A wonderful introduction to a global view that will answer and arouse curiosity in the young and act as an absorbing reminder for any age." -- School Library Journal. The Christopher Award, An American Bookseller Pick of the Lists.

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Been buying it for years. A nice way to introduce children to the fact that we're all in it together...gotta find a way to do it less destructively....and more constructively.

Fabulous book. My daughter is only two but she loves the pictures and hearing the various names for similar things around the world. My husband and I really appreciate the message and are using this along with a Sesame Street book (We're Different, We're the Same) to deliberately teach the importance of diversity. We're also looking for more titles to introduce the same concept in a more subtle way; we're finding it's all too easy to have a library of books with only white characters. We've given a copy of People as a gift once now and likely will again. Great for various ages.

I got this book as a child and was one of my favorites. It is a beautiful celebration of diversity and universality in human cultures and appearance. I disagree that the representation of different groups is outdated or stereotyped: perhaps in the United States everyone is encouraged to "blend in" but I have travelled to many countries where people happily wear their traditional dress and markings, like in the book. Anyway, it is a celebration of the diversity that still exists in the world, not a representation of how all people would look if forced to sit in a U.S. immigrant interview or something. This is a book about the whole world, not ethnic groups as they live in the U.S. or U.K. or Europe. Although many people from far-away countries put on our dress when they come here or work in their own big cities for international companies, that does not mean that they do not still have their own traditions, or that their distant relatives in those countries do not have their own traditions. It will be a sad day when we can truly say that the diversity shown in this book no longer exists, but that all people now wear more or less the same clothes, have the same beauty



standards, and do the same sorts of jobs.

This book is a fantastic way for teachers to begin their lessons on Cultural Geography! I used this book as an introduction to their Culture Project (another book/workbook available on ). After reading this book together, students worked out several questions together and individually, such as "Which Nose best reflects your nose?" "Which ears are the closest to yours?" "Which style of expression would you be most likely to try?" "Which games have you participated in or heard of?" "What's the most unusual thing food from this book that you have ever eaten?" and "If you could choose any form of shelter from those shown in the book, which might you choose?" They LOVED this. I then proceeded to reference it while we spent 4 days learning words/phrases in Cherokee (one of the languages featured on the written languages pages) and Swahili (not listed in the book). My kids loved it and loved discussing the differences between groups. I was amazed at some of the things they found interesting and some of the things they found disgusting. There is a passage in the book that talks about how not everyone considers the same things beautiful/ugly. Here I made a reference to a Disney movie from the 90s, A Far Off Place with Reese Witherspoon and Ethan Embry (known then as Ethan Randall). In the Bushman language, Reese informs us they have no words for beauty/pretty because it's not something that is of importance to their culture. Pop culture references and students' prior knowledge really made this book worth while! The edition I purchased indeed has updated numbers/figures for population increase and religious adherents/followers. A great resource to expose children of any age to the various traditions and great diversity of the world and to help place value on individuality.

I have used this book for years as a baby shower gift for my cooler friends -- Spier's clear-eyed survey of the crazy variety of people in the world -- and his celebration of how that makes it all more interesting -- remains timeless and relevant. I love this book!

We read this to our daughter when she was a child...and now we have purchased it for a favorite niece whose first baby will arrive in August. It is 'too old' for a baby, but it is a classic that is sorely needed in our partisan world!

This is by far one of my all time favorite books. I loved this book so much, I wrote to the author, several years ago. To my surprise he wrote back to me. It is THE book I like to give to a family when a baby is born....it's a lifetime book and in my last order, I bought 3 or 4. My FAVORITE book for



children for teaching why the fact that we are all so different, is a good and beautiful thing! Thank you Peter Spier.

How do we understand our differences? As a strength? Or as a threat? This delightful and carefully drawn exploration of noses and languages, homes and faiths, kinds of sport and varieties of appearance... invites us to leave our comfortable tribes and enter the wildly creative diversity of the whole world. We're in this... together. Let's celebrate and learn, not fear and shun. This little book is a gentle yet persuasive conversation-starter and eye-opener.

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