



## Teacher Share

ART, SOCIAL STUDIES

### Hands-On Welcome Wreath

**T**his is a quick and easy art project that can help kids feel a sense of belonging—one of the keys to creating a class community. Give each child half a sheet of construction paper. Let students team up to help each other trace one hand on the paper. Have children cut out the hand shapes and write their names on them, making the letters as fancy as they like. Cut out a large, doughnut-shaped oaktag ring. Let children take turns gluing their hands to the oaktag ring to create a wreath. Remind them to make sure everyone's name shows. Display the wreath on the classroom door to welcome students to class.



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SOCIAL STUDIES

### A Community of Words

September is Hispanic Heritage month. To help students recognize Hispanic influence on our United States community, focus attention on some interesting words in our language that have Hispanic origins. Begin by sharing words such as *patio*, *canyon*, *bronco*, *taco*, *mosquito*, *burro*, *buffalo*, *breeze*, *tornado*, *siesta*, *key*, and *alligator*. Write these on a chart. Provide students with magazines, and ask them to see if they can find pictures to illustrate any of the words. Keep the chart up, and add to it throughout the month as students come up with more words of similar origin.



For more information on words with Hispanic origins, check the *The Complete Teacher's Almanac* by Dana Newman (The Center for Applied Research in Education, 1991).