



Introduction



The essays on the following pages were written on the occasion of the 2001 Smithsonian Folklife Festival which featured the program “Bermuda Connections” which gave birth to this classroom resources guide.

In the opening essay, anthropologist Dr Richard Kurin, Director of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, offers perspectives on the relationship between local culture and the processes of the larger global contexts in which we all live.

The articles by Bermudian historian William S. Zuill, Sr and curator Dr Diana N’Diaye provide background on Bermuda’s history and local culture.

Bermudian local culture is further examined in notes on Bermudian language by wordsmith Ruth Thomas, vernacular architecture by architect James Tucker and woodworking traditions by author and cedar artisan Llewellen Emery.

Taken together, these essays may be read as background material for teachers and as the basis for classroom discussion in the upper grades.

