

# ACTS CHAPTERS 9:32-11:18

## The Gospel Reaches the Gentiles



# 9

May 8, 2005  
2.ACT09

### Lesson Goal

Students will learn that God calls people from every nation and culture to faith in Jesus Christ.

### Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Tell about the vision of Cornelius and the vision of Peter.
- Explain the meaning of Peter's vision.
- Explain what happened at Cornelius' house when Peter was preaching. Why were these events important?
- Explain how we show favoritism in proclaiming the Gospel.

### Memory Verse

Acts 10:34-35 ~ *"Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism, but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.'"*

### Application

- God wants to save you despite your cultural, social, or economic background.
- Do you proclaim the Gospel to only people with whom you are comfortable?
- How well do you know the Gospel? Can you explain it to your friends.

# TEACHER PLANNING SHEET

## Prepare Your Heart

- Read and study through the passage meditatively.
- Prayerfully seek how God would have you personally apply this passage to your own life. Write these down.

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## Prepare the Lesson

- Choose from the various ideas in the lesson plan.
- Write down an approximate time frame for each.
- List the materials needed.

## HOOK

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## BOOK

Time

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## LOOK

Time

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## TOOK

Time

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Materials  
Needed:

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# ACTS CHAPTER 9:32-11:18

## The Gospel Reaches the Gentiles

# 9

1st–3rd Grade  
May 8, 2005  
2.ACT09EL

## SHOOK

### MEMORY VERSE



“Then Peter began to speak: ‘I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism, but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.’”  
Acts 10:34,35



**Animal Draw (Relay Game).** You will need:

- 4 large pieces of butcher paper
- several markers (preferably washable) or crayons
- a list of animals for the class to draw

Divide the students into four teams. Give each team a piece of the butcher paper and put enough room between the groups so that they can't see each other's paper well. (It is great to play this game on the floor.) Give 4 different leaders a copy of the list of animals that the groups will be drawing, and assign each leader to a particular group. Make sure that all the leaders are about an equal distance away from their group. We don't want any unfair advantages. Each group will decide who is going to be the first person in their group to draw. That student will go to their assigned leader to learn what they will draw. Have one of the leaders shout "GO" and the students will run back to their paper and begin to draw. After the animal in question has been guessed then the next student in the group runs to the leader and tells him or her what was just drawn (*this helps keep the students honest*), then gets a new animal to draw. This game can be a bit time consuming so be ready for that aspect of the game.

Once the game is done tell the students that in today's Bible adventure they are going to see how God used animals to show Peter that He had given His saving grace to all the people of the world, not just the Jews.

**Ten Reasons (Brainstorm/Discussion).** Have the students brainstorm reasons why Jews would not accept Gentiles. Following are some suggestions:

1. They didn't obey the Ten Commandments.
2. They weren't descendants of Abraham.
3. They ate food that was unclean according to Old Testament law.
4. Worshipped other gods instead of the God of Abraham.
5. Married outside their own nation and had more than one wife.
6. Didn't honor the temple (they had many, not just one).
7. They weren't circumcised.
8. They drank blood.
9. They wove different materials into the same fabric.
10. They had pagan, mythological writings instead of the Scriptures.

In today's bible adventure we are going to see that God intended the message of Christ to be for all the people of the world and how that message began to be spread.

**Food Factor (Game/Activity).** For this game bring in a variety of different foods: Fruit, veggies, meat, sardines, or maybe something more exotic like pigsfeet or oysters. Think of things that will peek the students' attention in the game. Putting items in a blender and making a type of "smoothie" would certainly make them wide-eyed and attentive. *(Teacher Note: Use wisdom! The point is not just to make the students sick or totally disgusted.)* Now place a challenge to the students that whoever can eat "\_\_\_\_\_ " will get a prize. Usually a piece of candy or a large candy bar is incentive enough. Some "brave" individual will take you up on the idea and eat something. Be ready to give them their reward, but also have a garbage can nearby just in case! See if you can get one or two students involved and then move on to the point that in today's Bible Adventure they are going to see how God used all kinds of animals, which he told Peter to eat, to show Peter that He had given His saving grace to all the people of the world, not just the Jews.

**Different Nationalities (Discussion).** Using an atlas or magazine pictures *(National Geographic would work wonderfully)* show the students pictures of differently dressed people. Talk about how people often show favoritism towards others based on what they look like, but no matter where we live or how we dress, God loves all people the same because He created us all. Tell the students that in today's Bible Adventure they will learn about how God wants to save sinners from different cultures and backgrounds.

**Favorite Things (Activity).** The purpose of this activity is to stimulate discussion as to why something is a favorite. Bring in several items, either real or just pictures. For example, you might bring several different toys or pictures of toys, pictures of clothing fashions, a variety of chips, cookies, candy, fruits, different stuffed animals or pictures of animals, and several different types of books (comedy, mystery, and picture books). Place these items out on the floor and have the students take turns picking their favorites and telling the group why it's their favorite.

Another idea for talking about favoritism might be to use papers on which you have written things like "color, cereal, food, sandwich, toy, book, animal, place to visit, things to do with friends, cookie, candy, school subject," etc. The students take turns choosing one of the papers and telling the group what their favorite thing in that category is and why. Talk about how we have favorites—some things we like better than others. Ask the students, "Does God have favorite people?" Tell the students that in today's Bible Adventure and memory verse, they will find out if God has favorites! Say the memory verse.



### ***Presentation Ideas***

**Peter's Vision (Illustration/Coloring Page).** Acts 10:9-16, **2.ACT09EL.GF1.**

**Paul's Journeys, Then & Now (Laminated Wall Map/Overhead).** Maps are a great tool for giving perspective and exposing the reality of stories we hear. In today's Bible Adventure, the Gospel is spreading farther. By tracing Peter's steps to Lydda, Joppa, Caesarea, and back to Jerusalem, help the students get excited about God's plan for growing His Church and taking the Good News to the Gentiles.

### ***Bible Adventure for 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>d</sup> grades***

Any one of us, if asked, could give a full description of the kind of person we like least to be around. It could be the way they talk, the way they dress, their personality or their background that causes us to think unloving thoughts about them. It's a human failing to have such feelings, but it's not just a present-day problem. God was dealing with those kinds of feelings in men's hearts back in Bible times, too.

We learned from the book of Acts that after Stephen's death, the disciples of Jesus were scattered because of the persecution that was going on. This was part of God's plan to spread the Good News about Jesus throughout the whole earth. Peter traveled to Lydda, where he healed a man who had laid in bed for eight years because he was paralyzed. Everyone who lived in Lydda and another nearby town saw the man healed and turned to the Lord. In nearby Joppa, the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda. **They had just lost a dear friend, a woman named Dorcas, which is translated Tabitha, who became sick and died.** They sent men to bring Peter to Joppa as quickly as they could. Peter sent everyone out of Dorcas' room, then he got down on his knees and prayed. He turned to Dorcas and told her to get up. She opened her eyes and when she saw Peter, she sat up! Peter helped her stand, called all the believers back into the room, and watched their excitement. Soon the news had traveled all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

Peter stayed in Joppa for a while with a man named Simon, who was a tanner of animal hides. It was amazing in itself that Peter agreed to stay with Simon. **Because Simon was a tanner, he would have had bodies of dead animals lying around.** To a Jew, such an atmosphere would have been disgusting. But you see, God was already preparing Peter for some major changes in his thinking. Stay tuned and you'll see what God had in mind.

Meanwhile, about 30 miles away in the town of Caesarea, God was working in the life of a man named Cornelius, a Roman officer. Cornelius already had a soft heart toward God. He gave often to those in need, and he and his whole family had great respect for God and prayed to Him often. One afternoon Cornelius had an unusual experience. God allowed him to see an angel. This angel called out his name, saying that God had seen him praying and seen his giving to the poor. He told Cornelius to send men to Joppa to bring back the Apostle Peter. He even told Cornelius exactly where Peter could be found. Cornelius did as the angel had said.

The next day, while these men were still making the journey to Joppa, Peter went up on the roof of Simon the Tanner's house to pray. **The Bible tells us he "fell into a trance where he saw what looked like a large sheet being lowered down from heaven by its four corners. Inside that sheet were all kinds of animals, birds and reptiles.** Some of them made Peter shudder. They were things that a Jew considered unclean. Peter heard a voice: "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." Peter reacted the way you or I would if someone offered us fat grub worms or giant beetles to eat. Ugh!

"Surely not, Lord!" Peter answered. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." Do you see Peter's problem? **He's all caught up in his Jewish tradition and law. He's got prejudices that go way back, and not just about**

**food.** Listen to what the Lord said to him, "Do not call anything impure that the Lord has made clean."

Peter wasn't getting it, so God repeated the vision three times. Even then, Peter was confused. Why would God ask him to do such a thing? He was still wondering about it when the men who had been sent by Cornelius arrived at the gate, telling Peter about Cornelius' vision and inviting him to Cornelius' house.

A few days later Peter arrived in Caesarea, along with some of the believers from Joppa. Cornelius had invited all his friends and relatives over. When Peter saw the large gathering of people, he began to talk to them. He told them God had shown Peter that he should not call any man impure or unclean. Peter was starting to get the meaning of the vision God had given him. God wasn't just telling him about animals. **He was telling Peter that not only were Jewish people acceptable to Him, but Gentile people were, too.** Cornelius said everyone was ready to hear everything the Lord had commanded Peter to tell him or her. So Peter eagerly began to speak to them. He told them God welcomes men from all nations into His Kingdom. He sent Jesus to bring this message, and God was with Him in everything He did. The Apostles were witnesses. They watched as Jesus was killed and when He was raised from the dead. They had seen Him after His resurrection. Peter said Jesus had commanded them to testify to **all** people that He was the Messiah, and that **everyone** who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His name.

While Peter was still speaking these words, something happened that none of them expected. **The Holy Spirit came on all those who were listening to Peter's message. The Jewish believers could hardly believe that God would give the gift of the Holy Spirit to Gentiles!** The evidence was there, though, that they had indeed received the Spirit. Peter ordered all the people to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and welcomed them into the Church.

The news of this event traveled fast throughout all Judea. **When Peter returned to Jerusalem, the Jewish believers there did not give him a warm welcome.** They criticized him for going into Cornelius' home and for eating with Gentiles. (If you'll remember, Jesus was criticized for doing that very thing.) Peter explained to them everything that had happened. Jesus had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Then Peter gave his strongest argument. If God had given the Gentiles the same gift He had given the Apostles, who was Peter to think he could oppose God? **This satisfied the Jewish believers as they thought about it, and they praised God that He had opened the door of the Kingdom to Gentiles as well as Jews.**

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is for all people. God does not play favorites but has called people from every nation to faith in His Son. In the same way that Peter needed to change his thinking about who Christ died for, we may need to do the same. We fall easily into the error of favoring some people over others, maybe even looking down our noses at some. However, God does not want His message of Jesus to be hindered by our likes and dislikes. We are to represent Him, not ourselves. Guard your heart. Be aware of hesitations when it comes to telling someone else that Jesus has come to die and to live for them. Remember, the Gospel is for everybody, so go share, and leave the results to God.

### Aim Questions:

1. **Tell about the two visions that were seen in today's lesson. What did Cornelius see? What did Peter see?** *Cornelius saw a man who told him to go and find Peter. Peter saw a sheet full of animals that God told him that he could eat.*
2. **Where did Peter go the next morning after his vision? Who did he meet, and why was it strange for Peter to be there?** *Cornelius' house in Caesarea. It was strange because Cornelius was a Gentile and Peter was a Jew.*
3. **What did Peter tell the people at Cornelius' house? What happened while Peter was speaking?** *He told them the Gospel message, and the Holy Spirit came upon them.*
4. **In Acts chapter 11:1-18, who is Peter talking to, and why was it difficult for them to accept what Peter had done? What convinced them that God had accepted these Gentiles into the Kingdom?** *The apostles. They thought that the Gospel was only for the Jews. The fact that the Holy Spirit came upon the people of Cornelius' house is what convinced them.*
5. **Are there people that you don't accept as being worthy of becoming believers in Christ? How can we avoid showing favoritism with whom we will and won't share the Gospel?**



### LOOK

**A.C.T.S. 9:32 – 11:18 (Worksheet).** Who was the Apostle formerly known as Simon and the son of Jonas? *Peter.* What city was Peter in when he raised Tabitha from the dead? *Joppa.* Peter then traveled 30 miles north to this city named in honor of Augustus Caesar; *Caesarea.* How did the Jews in the early Church feel about the Gentiles? *The Jews basically ignored the Gentiles.* Did the Jews believe the Gentiles were saved? *No.* What did God grant the Gentiles in verse 11:18? *"The repentance that leads to life".* **2.ACT09EL.GF2.**

**Church Branches Out (Laminated Wall Map/Overhead/Individual Worksheet).** The early Church is beginning to branch out. Have the students keep track of the Apostles' journeys on the map mentioned in this lesson's Presentation Ideas. Use a different color for each Apostle. If an individual worksheet (copy of the map) is made for each student, be sure to keep them for marking the Apostle's journeys in future lessons.

**Clay-dough Animals (Activity).** Students might enjoy creating clay-dough animals that they think would have appeared on the sheet in Peter's vision. *(Clay-dough is available upon request.)*

**Acts 10:34, 35 (Memory Verse Exercise).** Use this worksheet to reinforce this lesson's memory verse, **2.ACT09EL.GF3.**

**Peter's Message (Worksheet).** As a class, read each question together and have the students write the answers to the questions in the squares to the right of the question, **2.ACT09EL.GF4.** After completing all the answers, take all the numbered letters, and write them in the boxes at the bottom of the page to get the message of today's lesson. **Answers:** *Aeneas, Dorcas, vision, four-footed, God, Holy Spirit, Jerusalem, water.* **Message:** *God does not show favoritism.*

**Peter's Change of Heart (Worksheet).** Use this fill-in-the-blank worksheet to see how Peter's heart was changed, **2.ACT09EL.GF5**.

**Aim Questions (Worksheet).** Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **2.ACT09EL.GF6**.



## TOOK

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**A.C.T.S. Vision Sheet (Activity/Discussion).** Bring in butcher paper or use white paper and some magazine pictures. Have the students cut out pictures of the animals they think would have been on the sheet in Peter's vision. They can then paste these on their sheet. As they are doing this, discuss with them what this vision represented. Are there people that they don't accept as being worthy of becoming believers in Christ? How can they avoid showing favoritism with whom they will and will not share the Gospel?

**God Doesn't Play Favorites, Why Should We? (Discussion).** In small groups discuss what Peter's vision meant. Ask the following questions:

1. How did Peter respond when he went to Cornelius' house?
2. Why was it strange for Peter to be there?
3. Are there people that you don't accept as being worthy of becoming believers in Christ?
4. What makes you feel that they are not worthy?
5. How can we avoid favoritism with whom we will and will not share the Gospel?
6. What should we do before we share the Gospel with anyone?

**Who's Acceptable? (Memory Verse Exercise).** Divide the students into two groups and give each student a list of "qualifications" that will make a person acceptable to God. Have them circle the **two** that they think are true. Don't rush. This should spark some discussion. Write Acts 10:34 & 35 on the board. Have the students correct themselves based on this verse, **2.ACT09EL.GF7 Pgs. 1 and 2** printed front to back.

**Who May Come? (Matching Game).** Copy **2.ACT09EL.GF8** onto cardstock for each group. Cut the cards apart, and spread them out on a table face down. Each student may turn two cards over at his or her turn. If he or she finds a match, he or she may keep the cards. The student with the most cards wins. Review the idea behind the game with the students by reminding them who it is that can come to know Christ as their savior.

**Memory Verse Review (Activity).** Tell the students, "Look at your shoes. Now look at your neighbor's shoes. They are all different. We are just like our shoes. We are all different. We just heard that God doesn't have any favorites. He doesn't care if you have brown or black shoes on." Pick a student with a white shoe, brown shoe and blue shoe and have them come up front and say the memory verse together. Do this until all the students have had a turn.

**This workbook is not available at this time.**

**A.C.T.S. Action Cards (Workbook).** Encourage students to continue using the Apostle action cards to memorize the significant statistics throughout the book of Acts. The main events of Acts 9:32-11:18 are:

- A. Peter
- C. From Joppa to Caesarea.
- T. Gentiles were being ignored.
- S. Is given to Gentile believers.

# Peter's Vision



# A.C.T.S.

## 9:32 - 11:18

**A**postles – Who was the Apostle formerly known as Simon and the son of Jonas?

**C**ity – What city was Peter in when he raised Tabitha from the dead? Peter then traveled 30 miles north to this city named in honor of Augustas Caesar.

**T**rials/troubles – How did the Jews in the early Church feel about the Gentiles? Did the Jews believe the Gentiles could be saved?

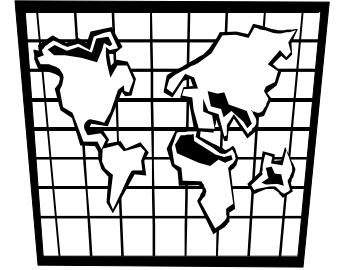
**S**pirit – What did God grant the Gentiles in verse Acts 11:18?

“Then Peter began to speak: ‘I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.’”

Acts 10:34-35



# ACTS 10:34, 35



Use the alphabet below to complete the memory verse.  
Each letter is used once. The letters that do not appear are in italics.

A B C D E F G H I *J* K L M N O P *Q* R S T U V W *X* Y Z

“Th\_n \_eter be\_an to \_pea\_: ‘I \_ow rea\_i\_e  
ho\_ tr\_e it is \_hat G\_d does not s\_ow  
\_a\_oritism \_ut ac\_epts men f\_om ever\_  
n\_tion who fear Hi\_ and \_o what is r\_ght.’”

Acts 10:34, 35



# Peter's Message



Write the answer to each question in the squares to the right. Take the numbered letters, and write them in the boxes below to get the message of today's lesson.

This man was a paralytic for eight years, and Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat." Acts 9:34

	6					7
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Tabitha was a disciple that Peter raised from the dead. What does Tabitha mean when translated? Acts 9:36

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At about three in the afternoon, a man named Cornelius had a \_\_\_\_\_. Acts 10:3

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In Peter's vision, the sheet contained all kinds of these animals. Acts 10:12

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15	13	18			3
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Who showed Peter that he should not call any man impure or unclean? Acts 10:28

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While Peter was speaking, what came upon all who heard the message? Acts 10:44

12	9		
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				20	21
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Where was Peter when he was criticized for going into the house of uncircumcised men? Acts 11:3

		19			16			24
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Peter remembered that Jesus had told him, "John baptized with \_\_\_\_\_, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 11:16

14		10		
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1	2	3
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4	5	6	7
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8	9	10
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11	12	13	14
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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# Peter's Change of Heart

These are statements made by Peter in Acts 10:1 - 11:18. Using the words provided below, fill in the blanks. What did Peter think about Gentiles before these events? How did he think differently after God changed his heart?

"Surely not, Lord! I have \_\_\_\_\_ eaten anything impure or \_\_\_\_\_." Acts 10:14

"You are well aware that it is against our \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_ for a Jew to associate with a \_\_\_\_\_ or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man \_\_\_\_\_ or unclean." Acts 10:28

"I now realize how true it is that \_\_\_\_\_ does not show favoritism but accepts men from every \_\_\_\_\_ who fear Him and do what is \_\_\_\_\_." Acts 10:34,35

"Can anyone keep these people from being \_\_\_\_\_ with water? They have received the \_\_\_\_\_ just as we have." Acts 10:47

"So if God gave them the same \_\_\_\_\_ as He gave us, who \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could \_\_\_\_\_ God?" Acts 11:17



**Unclean  
Impure**

**Gentile  
believed  
God**

**nation  
right  
gift**

**baptized oppose  
Law Holy Spirit  
Never**



# Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. Tell about the two visions that were seen in today's lesson. What did Cornelius see? What did Peter see?
2. Where did Peter go the next morning after his vision? Who did he meet, and why was it strange for Peter to be there?
3. What did Peter tell the people at Cornelius' house? What happened while Peter was speaking?
4. In Acts chapter 11:1-18, who is Peter talking to, and why was it difficult for them to accept what Peter had done? What convinced them that God had accepted these Gentiles into the Kingdom?
5. Are there people that you don't accept as being worthy of becoming believers in Christ? How can we avoid showing favoritism with whom we will and won't share the Gospel?

*As believers we should take every opportunity to share with everyone, no matter race, gender, or creed, the wondrous gift Christ has shared with us!*

**Acts**  
**Chapters**  
**9:32-11:18**

*"Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism, but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right.'"*  
*Acts 10:34, 35*

## Who is Acceptable to God?

Choose 2

A person who:

**was created by God  
smells cool  
looks good  
has light skin  
is Jewish  
fears God  
gives money to charity  
works hard  
does what is right  
is an American  
is important or famous  
serves his community  
wants to be accepted  
is very smart  
wears cool clothes  
has good manners**

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# Who's Acceptable?

“Then Peter began to speak: ‘I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism, but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right.’” Acts 10:34,35

# Who's Acceptable?

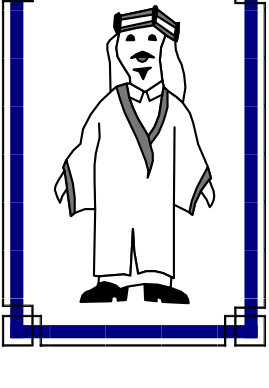
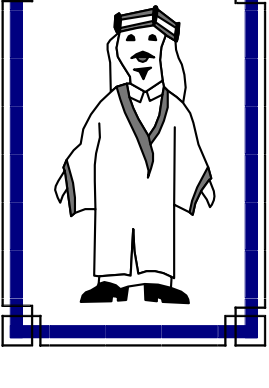
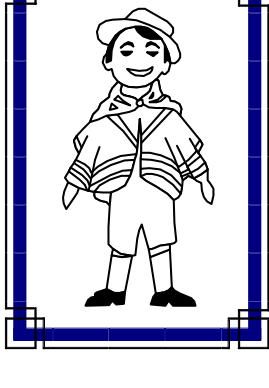
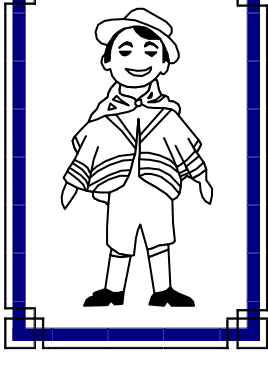
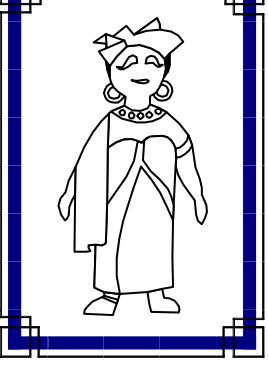
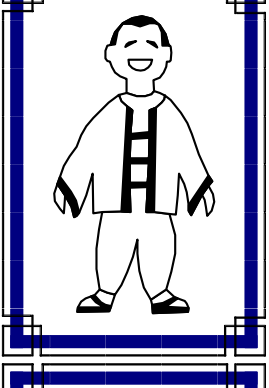
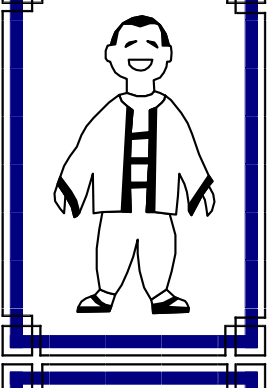
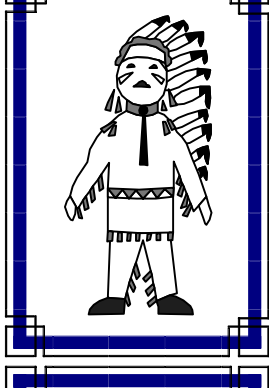
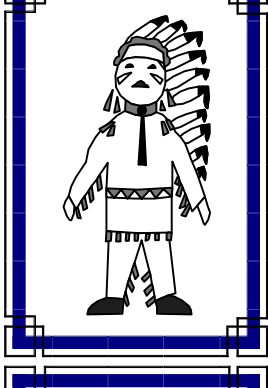
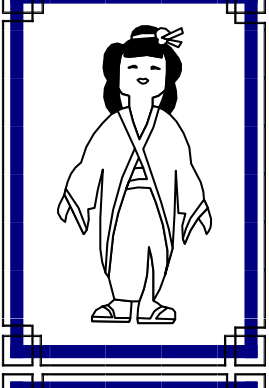
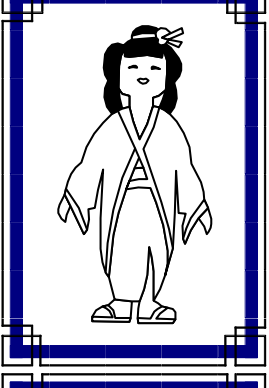
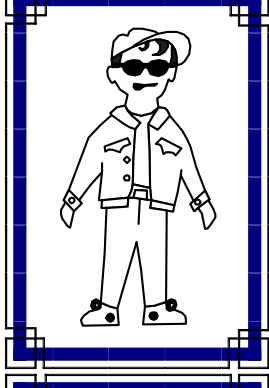
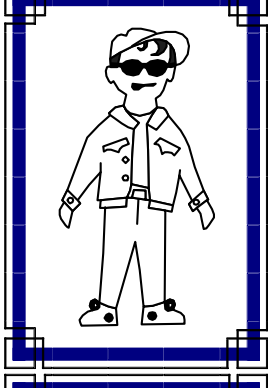
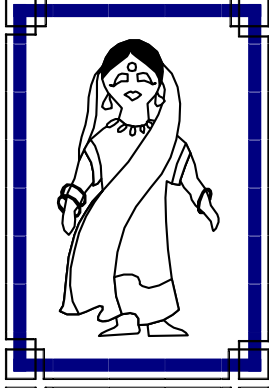
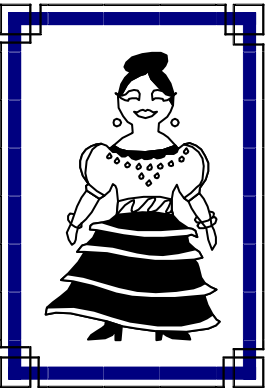
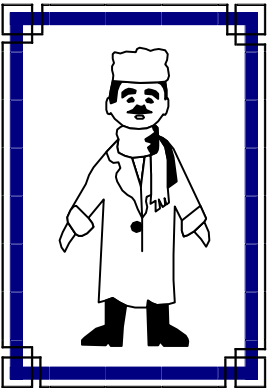
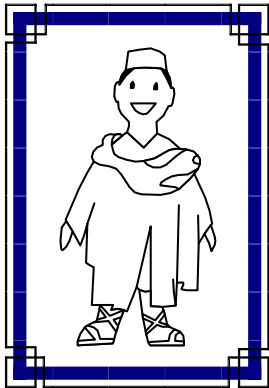
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