

## Kardemimmit Finland

### Acknowledgements

No one person, place, or thing provides a clear, definitive lens to an entire culture or country. The following sample options provide a sliver of perspective on Finnish culture and life. There are as many ways to think about Finland as there are people living there. Please honor this and respect the offerings as that; then be inspired to find out about your own heritage, background and family culture! Happy learning!

— Salolampi Finnish Concordia Language Village

<p><b>Finnish Dance Sample:</b></p> <p>Finnish dance is varied from cultural folk dancing to modern innovations. Offered here are some samples of traditional folk dances.</p>	<p><b>Watch:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Tikkuristi tanssittuna</a></li> <li>• Letkajenkka <a href="#">Letkis M2U00890</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Helpful materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 sticks per individual (2 feet in length)</li> <li>• Space to dance</li> </ul>
<p><b>Finnish Music Sample:</b></p> <p>Finland is a country full of music, historically and still today. Between hockey players and orchestra conductors, it can be hard to tell which number the most. Osmo Vänskä has been with the Minnesota Orchestra since 2003.</p> <p>Learning basic kantele is part of primary school experience in Finland. Included in the samples are some links to more kantele pieces, even an extreme one. Listed as samples of Finnish music are both serious and silly opportunities to learn about culture.</p>	<p><b>Read:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Coaching conducting: Finland possesses prowess on the orchestral podium</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Watch:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Osmo Vänskä, the Music Director of the Minnesota Orchestra</a> conducting a short part of <a href="#">Finlandia</a></li> <li>• Kantele demo from <a href="#">Suomalainen kansanmusiikkia</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Linnan juhlat 2019   Linnan jatkot: Samu Haber ja Ida Elinan kantele nostavat Finlandian uusiin sfääreihin</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Try it out:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Air Guitar Championships</a>, held in Finland. Hold a classrom competition!</li> </ul>	<p><b>Helpful materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smartboard or large interactive TV with speakers (good audio quality for classical music)</li> <li>• Any small percussion instruments for rhythm or other hand instruments to keep a beat</li> </ul>
<p><b>Finnish Movement Sample:</b></p> <p>Staying active is important for many, including many Finns of any age. They are pioneers in outdoor playgrounds, functioning in training facilities. Samples here include a physical education teacher sharing some challenges and the new phenomenon of hobbyhorse racing.</p>	<p><b>Try it out:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical challenges from <a href="#">Arat ja Ujot - Our stories</a></li> <li>• How many challenges can you complete? In a week? In a month? For the year? Could you create your own?</li> <li>• <a href="#">Make your own hobbyhorse</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Helpful materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A way to keep track of challenges (graph paper or online method)</li> <li>• Wooden dowel, or other similar material</li> <li>• Assorted materials to create the horse or animal head</li> <li>• Space to race or play with the horse</li> </ul>

## Finnish Nature Sample:

Finns value nature in all seasons. Summer is short, with the sun shining for long days. Winter is long including days up north when the sun doesn't rise. None of this stops people from getting outdoors. People hike, ski, bike, and spend time in nature. Unique to Finland is a law called *jokamiehenoikeus*, or Everyman's Right (the access to nature nearly anywhere), and the use of the outdoors for learning.

Sauna is also a completely Finnish tradition and recently recognized by UNESCO.

## Read & Discuss:

### [Sauna culture in Finland](#)

- Is sauna something you know about? How do you know about it, and why might you not? What do you notice about sauna in Finland and your experience?

### [Everyman's Rights and Regulations](#)

- How is Everyman's Right different from how we might experience the use of nature? Why would this work where? Why not?

## Try it out:

- [Research/materials for outdoor learning from Ulkoloukka](#)

## Helpful materials:

- Outdoor classroom printable material (all available in English)
- Discussion questions as offered
- Follow up written reflections
- Outdoor space to spend time in nature; listen, look, smell, think.

## Finnish Art/Design Sample:

Starting in the early 1900s Finns were well recognized in the world for their unique art and design, often referencing nature and the environment. Aino and Alvar Aalto were some of the early design names, but painters, artists, writers, poets, and musicians rose up during the fight for Finland's independence creating an era of art. Samples shared here include access to many museums in Finland, housing many of these iconic pieces. The 1950s and 1960s also produced another phase of art well received by the world, primarily marimekko and Muumi, both fashion statements of society at the time.

## Visit & Discuss:

### [Virtual museums](#)

- What do you notice in these museums? Have you traveled to art or historical museums before, what is the same, what is different? Have you been to another country; what do you notice about museums in the States and other countries what is the same, what is different?

### [Alvar Aalto: Alvar Aalto Foundation](#)

- What do you notice about Aalto's design technique, traits, or tendencies?

### [marimekko Design House: Our story](#)

- Jackie Kennedy made a splash wearing marimekko as the First Lady in the 1960s
- Design your own marimekko (inspired by nature)

## Helpful materials:

- Paper
- Colored pencils, markers, paint, and any writing/drawing materials
- Muumi / Moomin books
- Other books by Tove Jansson

## Finnish News Samples:

Recently Finland has been in the news with some interesting stories. Here are some of the headlines in the global papers.

## Read & Discuss:

[Sanna Marin, 34, Finland's new prime minister, heads a government coalition with four other female leaders](#)

- Ms. Marin is a young world leader, and leading at times of history like this takes a level head. Women first voted in 1906 in Finland and have been appointed to significant leadership posts for many decades. How is this different and the same to the States? Why might this be? How might society be different if more women were in positions of decision-making or not?

[Finland's part of the Mars journey](#)

- Finland is the birthplace of many technological advances, and fun (including Angry Birds). Now with collaboration, a slice of Finland is even on Mars.

[Finland's radical plan to lure global talent](#)

- Hmm, do you have a desire to move to Finland? Here was a chance to use your skills to try it out with little to no risk for 90 days.

[Finnish teammates could be Blue Jackets down the road, too](#)

- Are there other sports that might be popular with certain countries or cultures? Why might this be?

[Finnish Surnames in America](#)

- Perhaps you have a Finnish last name. They all mean something. Was your name changed? Why do you think it was or not?

## Finnish Reading/Education Sample:

After Finnish independence and stability were secure, Finnish leadership realized the most valuable resource they had was their people and made significant investments in education.

## Read & Discuss:

National Epic - Kalevala: [The Project Gutenberg eBook of Finnish Legends for English Children, by R. Eivind](#)

- What are some of the themes of the Kalevala, and why might that be?
- Are these themes common in other texts of this time, or following this time?

Classic Finnish Children's Stories (videos in Finnish): [Koirien kalevala](#) and [Aleksis Kivi: Seitsemän koiraveljestä](#)

- What do you understand?
- What questions do you have?

Finnish Education: [The key to the nation's success](#)

- How is school different for you in the US? How is school similar for you and learners in Finland?

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