

Warm-Up Activity:

The Path to the Universe Starts from the Village: How Culture Connects the World



On the outskirts of Sheker, the birthplace of Chingiz Aitmatov, a welcome sign pays homage to Kyrgyzstan's most celebrated writer. At the base, his words remind visitors that "the path to the universe starts from the village."

Predicting

1. Look at the title, image and caption. What do you think the article will be about? What details helped you make that prediction?
2. What message do you think the quotation, "The path to the universe starts from the village," is trying to communicate? How might it connect to the image?

Exploring the Theme

1. This about a time you learned about another culture through a book, place, work of art or person. How did it change your understanding of that culture?
2. Why do you think preserving literature, historic places and cultural traditions can help people from different countries understand one another?

Confirming Your Prediction

3. If time allows, read over the first two paragraphs of the article. How do they confirm or challenge your earlier prediction?