

## USA: ANNA AND HER RACCOON

### Subject areas

social studies, world geography and cultures, multicultural studies, life science

### Synopsis

Anna lives on a farm in Louisiana. One day she rescues a raccoon whose family has been eaten by alligators. Anna does everything she can to look after the little creature she calls Bandit, but soon she will have to return it to the wild. Anna's friend Joe, a Native American, tells her legends about the raccoons, so we learn about how diverse cultures enrich each other in the United States.

### Learning Objectives

Students should be able to

- compare and contrast their culture, family, and work with Anna's culture, family, and work.
- describe why wild animals should be returned to their natural habitat.
- demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of the world's cultures.
- locate Louisiana on a map or globe.

### Vocabulary

Louisiana, United States, farm, abandoned, raccoon, canal, alligator, swamp, orphan, humid, species, Indians, legends, melody, flute, godfather, rodent, Protestants

### Pre-Viewing Activities

Locate the United States of America on a map or globe and point out the state of Louisiana. Ask students to name the continent on which the United States is located. Make sure they know where the United States is in relation to the rest of the world.

As a class, discuss general characteristics of Louisiana, such as its size, geography, climate, natural resources, culture, etc.

Ask students to identify a favorite pet or animal friend. Do they have or know of animals that help them or their community? How? Do they know of animals that are both helpers and pets?

### Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion

Describe Anna's family. Describe their home. What does Anna's family do to make a living? Which animal is Anna's favorite? How did she decide on a name for him?

Where was Bandit found? What happened to his family? Where do raccoons usually live? What does Anna buy to feed Bandit? Does he eat the food she bought for him?

What kind of surprise did Anna have when she went to check on Bandit the next morning? How did he get out of his cage? Where did Anna find him? Where did she and her sister Vanessa go to learn more about raccoons?

Why did Anna organize a fishing party? Was the fishing trip successful? Did Bandit eat the fish they caught?

Why did Anna consult her mother's friend, Joe? What Native American legend did Joe share with Anna about the raccoon? What did Joe do just for Bandit? What did Anna's godfather do?

Compare and contrast your daily routine with Anna's. What similarities and differences are there? How is Anna's market like or unlike yours? How are activities with her family like or unlike yours?

### **Further Activities**

Name some facts you would share with Anna about yourself, your family, your town, your state, and your country.

The fur of the raccoon has been highly valued in North America since the 17th century. Find out what items are still made of this coarse but attractive fur. Research coon hunting and explain where it is practiced and how.

There is a popular belief that raccoons wash their food before eating it. Do research to find out how this belief originated and to what it is related.