Introduction:

Typically in advanced level English as a Second Language classes students are fluent English speakers, have good listening comprehension, and are still improving their reading comprehension and writing skills. They are required to pass a national test (WIDA) to be released from ESOL classes and enter the core high school courses.

Students ages 14-20 have arrived in the USA with some English from any of at least ten countries. In advanced English classes they may have studied English for three years already. Their countries include: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Philippines, Egypt, Vietnam, Laos, El Salvador, Honduras, Bolivia, Somalia, Korea, Mexico, and Ethiopia. Their educational backgrounds vary in strength of content knowledge.

English is taught using content material to increase their general educational level. The unit described below is designed to increase their cultural and historical awareness. Essential vocabulary such as geography terms and academic skills such as comparison/contrast will be taught.

Compare, Contrast, Understand Our World:

The Unit:

This unit involves students in educating one another following the method modeled by the teacher. Ten topics in world culture will be 1) researched, 2) presented orally and illustrated visually or physically (realia) to the class, 3) collected in guided notes (listening and writing) by the audience. From student notes an assessment will be created by the teacher and finally given as a test.

The teacher will present information about Turkey. The students will model their own presentations after hers and report on their own native countries (which most know very little about). If more than one student in the class is from the same country they will work as partners.
When students present information on each of 10 topics they will first provide 5-10 written questions for students of their audience to write answers to as a means of note-taking during the oral presentation. Their written answers will be collected and graded.

Students will be given library research time to use databases to find information on each topic about each country and add it into their PowerPoint or notes.

This unit will require a full quarter (8-9 weeks) as a portion of each class. Projects that succeed may be entered into the country’s World Technology Competition in the spring quarter.

Topics:

1. Geography:
   Location/continent
   Land area
   Major cities and capitol
   Population
   Features: oceans, seas, straits, mountains, plains, rivers, ports, plateaus, volcanoes
   Bordering countries
   Climate: seasons, temperatures, precipitation
2. Cuisine and music: bring one example of each to class
3. Clothing: bring or illustrate an example of traditional clothing/food and explain
4. Dance tradition: performs it or You Tube.com (eg. Whirling Dervishes)
5. Religion and religious architecture/famous monuments (HagiaSophia)
6. History: periods of history timeline
7. Famous people – 2 biographies or historic or modern people (Justinian, Ataturk)
8. Arts: for example illustrations or physical examples of carpets, mosaics, pottery and tiles in abstract patterns, shadow puppets
9. Language: writing and speaking [How do you count, say hello, yes, thank you]
10. An ancient or archaeological site and its history.

FCPS Program of Studies Objectives:

Standard 2: Students will create a framework to understand the physical and cultural developments of humans through time.

Benchmark 2.1 Students will define and apply introductory concepts of chronology.

Performance indicators 2.1 Students reach this benchmark when they are able to interpret and create various historical timelines. [Each report will include a timeline of history of their country. Students will learn how to make a timeline in Fall quarter, by making a personal timeline of their own life.]

Resources for information on Turkey:
www.turkishculturalorganization.org

www.turkishmusicportal.org

www.turkish-cuisine.org

Atlas of the World

www.Nationalgeographic.org

Golden Treasures of Troy The Dream of Heinrich Schlieman, Abrams Publishers

CD Topkapi Palace Museum


ABC- CLIO Social Studies on-line database for history and social studies, Lee High School library