

# We Are Country Folks I Celebrate Our Multicultural History

Karrie Lynn

When people first look at me, they see a white female, but I am much more than that. My great-grandpa was born in Ireland. He moved over to the states when he was older. My great-grandpa left his children in an orphanage. This included my grandpa. My grandpa's sister was adopted, and my grandpa went to live with his sister's new family. My grandpa changed his last name from

Beggs to Gibson which was his sister's adopted name.

On my mother's side, my great-grandpa was half Cherokee.

Both my great-grandpa and grandpa look like

American Indians. I didn't know them very well, but my great-grandpa married my great-grandma, who was white, and they moved to a small town in Missouri.

I consider my family "country folks" because I grew up in a small, rural Missouri town. My nearest neighbor was a mile away, it was pretty

secluded. But, what I celebrate about my race is all the cultures that are in my family. Now I live in a city, and I appreciate seeing so many different cultures and the way that other people live. I believe I have that appreciation for different cultures because of my family's multicultural heritage.

But most of all I celebrate being an individual and not being defined by my race. I celebrate my kindness for everyone I meet no matter their race. I celebrate my personality and how different and unique I am. I celebrate my culture and history and my individuality.



Karrie Lynn is a student at Literacy Kansas City. She plans to attend college and get her nursing degree.

**I celebrate my kindness for everyone I meet no matter their race.**

## Compare and Contrast

Read the articles on this page and the next. Both Karrie Lynn and Althea Richardson celebrate their race. Based on the text, what do they have in common and what is different? On a clean sheet of paper, make a chart like the one below and fill it out.

In common	Different