

Akhil Deevi, 12 years old

## **How my heritage affects my life**

I don't know who I would be today without my heritage. Heritage is a factor that defines the identity of people around the world. My Indian heritage is one of the defining factors of my identity, influencing what I eat, what language I speak, and what I celebrate, among others. I enjoy rice and different curries everyday, while speaking Telugu, one of India's many languages. I also celebrate many traditional Indian holidays, like Diwali and Sankranti.

My Indian roots bring in lots of different thoughts and lessons, and I try to take in all the wonderful aspects of it. My heritage reminds me of important life values, like showing kindness, and being helpful to others. My heritage connects me to the rest of my family abroad and gives us something in common to form a bond about, like celebrations and hindu myths. My heritage is a crucial part of my learning too, helping me study through hundreds of years of knowledge passed down to me by books and other resources. My heritage also propels my curiosity and encourages me to learn about the past of my country. In summary, my heritage has been guiding the course of my life, and will for many more years.