

ROBERSON MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

Post-Visit Home for the Holidays/Holiday Traditions (The International Forest)

Grade Level: 4-7

New York State Standards: Arts 1, 2, 4; SS 1, 2, 3; ELA 1, 4

Pennsylvania Learning Standards: A&H 9.2; H 8.3, 8.4

Objective: Students will understand that there are themes and ideas that cross cultures and unify us while unique aspects of a culture or religion enrich our culture as a nation of immigrants.

Materials:

- Compare and Contrast charts students used in the pre-visit lesson plan.
- Project materials as needed (see number 2 below)
- Student journals
- Pens/pencils

Procedure:

1. Class completes the final column in the Compare and Contrast chart by marking **S** if an aspect of the exhibition they examined is the same as their family celebration and by marking **D** if that aspect is different.
2. Class brainstorms and discusses ways in which all the celebrations were similar. Ask them to consider what characteristics ran through all the exhibits. (Light, Feast, Natural Materials, Spiritual Elements, Family) Divide the class into 5 groups. Each group is assigned one of these characteristics and asked to create a poster, acrostic poem, or other project to demonstrate the importance and unifying quality of this aspect of the holiday celebration. For more advanced students, you may wish to ask students to write an essay on why so many of these themes and ideas cross cultures, or to research the origins of several of these cross-cultural traditions.
3. Groups present projects to the class.
4. In journals, students respond to the question: *“Does it unite or divide us as a nation to have so many cultures celebrating in so many ways? How and why?”*
5. Class discussion can follow journal entry.

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