

# ROBERSON MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

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

**Grade level:** 8-12

**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

**Objectives:** Students will understand that world cultures have defined and enriched American culture.

**Materials:**

- student journals
- pens/pencils

**Procedure:**

1. Teacher leads class discussion on things learned during visit to the **International Forest**. Teacher adds to pre-visit charts.
2. **Human Barometer Teaching Strategy:** Teacher asks the class “*Should immigrants continue to celebrate holidays the way they did in the old country or should they be expected to celebrate the American way?*” Students stand and move to the back of the room if they think immigrants should adopt American ways and students go to the front of the room if they think immigrants should maintain old traditions. Students stand half way between if they are not sure.
3. Students are asked to explain their positions. After students defend their positions, the question is asked again to see if anyone has changed his/her mind. Now students are asked another question....”*If you moved to Japan would you celebrate the holidays the same as you do now or in a Japanese way?*” Students move to the back if they would continue to celebrate the same way and to the front if they would go Japanese. Again students explain their answer and the question is asked again.
4. Teacher concludes discussion by asking students to complete this analogy to describe multiculturalism in their journals. Students may write a persuasive essay explaining and defending their beliefs. For more advanced students, you may wish to talk about colonization and missionary work. How do these political activities affect a nation’s cultural practices?
5. Optional: Wrap up holiday study unit by having students bring in treats typical for their family holiday celebration.

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