ROBERSON MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

Pre-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 learn that immigration has brought the holiday traditions of many cultures to our local area and enriched our community.

Materials:
- World Map
- Family Questionnaire (attached)
- Compare and Contrast chart (attached)
- Pens/pencils

Procedure:
1. Begin a classroom discussion by discussing some of the following concepts: What does multiculturalism mean? How might it apply to modern American culture? (Other than the Native Americans our ancestors were all immigrants.) Traditions that have been handed down to us from these ancestors have affected our lives including our holidays. Ask students to consider why immigrants continued to celebrate the holidays the way they did in their country of origin. They gave them a feeling of familiarity.

2. Students are given a questionnaire to take home regarding their ancestry (see attachment) and holiday traditions. **Note to teachers:** If any of your students are adopted, they may still complete this activity. Traditions are learned aspects of culture, so that even if these practices were celebrated by a family not biologically connected to your student, it is still okay for them to research their family’s heritage.

3. On a world map, students find their ancestors’ country of origin and attach his/her name to it with a post-it note. A class graph is made to show numbers from each country. (This can also be done by continent if there are too many countries involved).

4. Students complete the left column only of a side by side Compare and Contrast chart with information about his/her family holiday. Other categories can be added or substituted (see attachment).

5. At the International Forest exhibition at Roberson Museum and Science Center, students will see exhibits reflecting cultures of the immigrants who settled in this area. They, like the students’ families, brought their traditions with them.

6. If time permits, teachers may ask students to bring his/her Compare and Contrast chart and complete the right column with information about one of the countries on exhibit that is not
familiar to him/her (some possibilities include: Armenia, Sweden, Ireland, Ukraine as well as the exhibits for Hanukkah, Diwali, Ramadan and Kwanzaa). Please call ahead to find out what countries are represented in this year’s international forest.

7. Save the charts. These are used in the post-visit lesson plan.

Developed by: Ginny Schumacher
Date: February 2010
Family Questionnaire

Name__________________________________________

In preparation for our visit to the *Home for the Holidays* exhibition at *Roberson Museum and Science Center*, we are learning more about our own family holiday traditions. Please complete this questionnaire:

Which (if any) of these winter holidays do you celebrate? (Please check all that apply)

___   Christmas                             ___   Diwali                             ___   Ramadan
___   Hanukkah                             ___   Kwanzaa

From which country or countries did your families originally immigrate?

Maternal side of family______________________________________________________

Paternal side of family_______________________________________________________

Did any family members bring holiday decorations with them that you still use today?

_____________________________________________________________________

Did any family members bring ethnic holiday traditions that you still participate in today?

_____________________________________________________________________

Are there any traditional foods that you enjoy at the holidays that came from your ancestors’ country of origin? If yes, what are they? __________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Is there anything else that you would like to share about your holiday celebrations?

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

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_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________
Compare and Contrast Chart

Name_______________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My Family’s Holiday:</th>
<th>Different Holiday:</th>
<th>Same or Different?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(write holiday in on the line above)</td>
<td>(write holiday in on the line above)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Decorations

Lights

Symbols

Main Meal

Sweets

Gifts

Activities

Additional rows in the chart above are for students to write in their own categories.