

Lesson 9

Cultural Ties in Your Nebraska Community



OVERVIEW: Our local communities influenced by other cultures linking us to different countries. These connections include names of streets, parks, memorials, etc., which are permanent in the community. More subtle links include various goods and services produced such as restaurants and retail. Other community characteristics include: religious affiliations, slang from foreign influence, and additional customs added to the traditional American holidays. Many communities also hold special festivals with international ties. This activity will allow you to become more aware of the cultural influences within your specific community.

ECONOMIC CONCEPTS: The students will learn about:

1. economic resources
2. local economy

OBJECTIVE: The students will be able to:

1. use several different resources to compile data about how their specific community is affected by international ties and relations.

NEBRASKA STANDARDS:

8.3.5 and 12.4.17

MATERIALS:

1. access to your local library, city hall, travel agent, visitors bureau or Chamber of Commerce
2. poster board, markers, and maps.
3. Cultural Ties in Your Nebraska Community Student Worksheet

PROCEDURE:

1. Ask students to list any obvious international connections to your city or town. Lead the students to some examples of international ties in your community so they will start to formulate an understanding of this concept.

2. Students will need a copy of the worksheet *Cultural Ties in Your Nebraska Community*. Using a travel agent, library, Chamber of Commerce, or tourist bureau they should then research the items on the worksheet.
3. With the data collected from student research, have them make a bulletin board to display in your school, local library, bank, or town hall to share your discoveries with others in the community.
4. Report or demonstrate to the class crafts, customs, or styles of architecture with cultural influences that are significant to your local area.
5. Create posters or pamphlets advertising your town's festivals or celebrations to try and draw people from surrounding areas to participate.
6. Invite guest speakers to give class presentations about the history and ethnic heritage of your community. How has this history impacted the local economy throughout the years?
7. Make a videotape that records your community's international ties. You could use your tape on back-to-school night or send it to another city in Nebraska and ask to learn about their town.



Student Worksheet

Cultural Ties in Your Nebraska Community



Using a community map and information from you library, city hall, travel agent, Chamber of Commerce, or tourist bureau, research the following:

1. Origins of names of streets, parks, bodies of water, memorials, and schools.
2. Styles of architecture and streets.
3. Nationality or original owners of land or other natural resources in your community.
4. Your community's major religious affiliations and their initial origins.
5. Explanation of the design of a town flag.
6. Use of any significant second language, different dialects in your area, or use of slang from an international influence.
7. Types of restaurants in your community.
8. Special town festivals or variations on holiday traditions.



After you've completed your research, you should be prepared to participate in class discussions over the following topics:

1. Based on the collected data, from what parts of the world have people come to your community?
2. Is there any specific reason why these people chose to settle in your area? Reasons might include employment and/or homesteading opportunities, resemblance to homeland, family or others were here, etc.
3. What visible influences have these people had on the areas they settled?
4. Discuss some early community leaders and their impact on the community.
5. Imagine how your area would be different without its cultural heritage.

