

# HERITAGE PROJECT

## **SOCIAL STUDIES/LANGUAGE ARTS HERITAGE PROJECT (WHEN TWO WORLDS COLLIDE)**

This assignment is designed to get you involved in an activity in which you can work closely with your family, identify your ethnic backgrounds, understand the concept of immigration, and connect events in history with the movement of your ancestors.

Additionally, you will become more cognizant of your own family's unique individual makeup and its cultural origins, and develop a better understanding of the United States as a melting pot.

### **GOAL:**

The overall purpose of this assignment is to develop an understanding that America is politically, ethnically, culturally and economically a "nation of immigrants." The emphasis of the assignment will be research by you and your families into your genealogy and heritage. As you investigate, you should the motivations for your family's immigration, the perils of their journey to America, the problems involved in adapting to a new world, and the unique rich cultures they brought to this country.

### **MATERIALS:**

The main resource will be family documents, records, pictures and interviews.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **1. Create a family tree.**

Trace your family tree back to three or more generations. The family tree should be a colorful representation of your family history. The tree should include pictures if at all possible, of the family members represented.

Samples have been provided for you as a reference in the back of this packet.

### **2. Research the history of your ancestors and create a mini biography.**

Attain biographical information on a "colorful" member of your family and write a mini-biography. If the person you choose is not living- you may obtain the information through family records, interviews, etc. If the person you choose is living, the best way to obtain the information is by interview. See the attached *Immigration Interview* handout for ideas.

### **3. Create a Family Symbol**

Choose a symbol that best represents your family. For example, if your family has a line of fire fighters, then you could put a fireman's hat as your family symbol. Your family symbol should be colorful and creative. Use your imagination.

**4. Create a Travel Brochure:** Choose one country that represents part of your family's heritage. Your brochure can be computer generated or hand-drawn. If you choose, you may also display your information in the form of a booklet. Consider including some of the following information.

- **Geography**
- **Flag**
- **Holidays, customs, and traditions**

- **Economy**
- **Type of government** (democracy, kingdom, dictatorship, etc.)
- **Religions**
- **Ethnicity/Language**
- **Traditional clothing**
- **Important landmarks and tourist attractions** (Eiffel Tower, Washington Monument, Mount Fuji, Taj Mahal)

### **Visual Aide**

Gather all of the required elements and create a visual aide to share with the class. Your visual can be in the form of a reference book, a poster, or a tri-board. Your aide should be creative and colorful. Be prepared to present your project orally to the class. Have fun!