



Final Project: Windows on the World

Each student should research the country of choice and the ethnic group for as much background information as possible. He/she should then use whatever means possible to find out about the customs and traditions of the people of that country. The following project should enable the student to combine the research with the folklore information in a display about the country of choice and the immigrants from that region.

Focus should be on life in the country of origin, causes/reasons for the immigration to America, and the evolution of the ethnic group in the struggle to become more “American”.

Supplies: research information, folklore information, notes
cardboard tri-fold display board
paper, lined and unlined, white and colors
pens, pencils, markers, watercolor paints
scissors, glue, double-sided tape, rulers

Planning, preparations:

Using lined or unlined white paper, draw the inside of the opened display board.



Design the displays and information for each part of the display board. Plan to use the end sections for research information. Plan to use the center section for an artistic display.

Left side: Include factual information about the “old country”. This could be maps, population information, weather and climate details, geographic landforms, important dates or people in the history of that country.



Right side: Include factual information about the “new world”. This could include maps of immigrant settlement, details about the travel, information about the housing, jobs, and education upon arrival, or important events that occurred upon arrival.

The work can be written or typed, put on paper first or written onto the display board. It may include maps or graphs of information.

Center section: The center section will be used to demonstrate and display items related to the folklore and folklife of the immigrant group. It will be divided into four parts, like the panes of a window. The student may draw the lines to divide the “panes”, or he/she may choose to cut the T-square out of paper or cardboard and place it on top of the four illustrations.

Each student will choose four topics for inclusion in the display. Each topic will first be drawn with pencil, and the design should be based on the folklife of the immigrant group. After the rough drawing, each student will decide how to elaborate each drawing. (Art teachers are wonderful resources for helping with watercolor painting or charcoal art.) Each illustration is done on an unlined sheet of paper.

Upon completion of the four illustrations, the student may use glue or double-sided tape to fix the four sheets to the center section. He/she may then draw in the T-square, or use the tape or glue to fix the T-square on top of the four illustrations so it should look like four window panes.

Outside: When closed, the outside of the display board should identify the immigrant country that is revealed on the inside. Using the knowledge gained in researching the country, the student should write the name of the country on the outside. He/she should then decorate the outside with the appropriate colors and designs from folk art of that country.

The completed projects are wonderful for display at an Arts and Science Fair, or at any event. In a classroom, students may elaborate on the information gained about a country and an immigrant group. As a display, the Windows on the World projects demonstrate a multi-faceted understanding of people from another land who have contributed to the heritage and culture of the United States of America.