

Milwaukee Art Museum JDSP
4th Grade – Tour 3: Communities and Traditions
Pre-visit Mini Lesson

We are looking forward to seeing your 4th graders at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Here are some activities to help prepare the students for the visit.

Introduce:

Today on our ***Communities and Traditions*** tour, we will investigate the customs of people who live both near and far, discovering differences, similarities, and cross-cultural influences through works of art from the Museum’s Collection. We will look at how people around the world share common activities such as eating, sleeping, working, and celebrating significant events in their lives **to form traditions in their cultures**. During the tour, you will discover how many traditions may be different but that most communities do celebrate similar things such as, special meals, recreation, work, holidays, birthdays, births, deaths, weddings, etc.

Ask students to give definitions and ideas for the words **community** and **tradition**. After giving them the definition of each word ask them to think of and share some of the examples of community and tradition they have experienced.

Vocabulary:

Community: a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common, or a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

Tradition: the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, information, etc., from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or by practice: a story that has come down to us by popular **tradition**.

Ask:

Please share some of the communities you belong to: (Schools, churches, clubs, family and friend groups, neighborhoods, are all examples of a community.)

- What kinds of communities do you belong to? What brings you together as a community?
- Can you belong to more than one community? Why or why not?
- Why are communities important to people?
- What kinds of celebrations and practices are the most important to your family?
- What are some ways that people celebrate birthdays? Weddings? Etc.
- How can you tell which celebrations or traditions are most important to your family or community?

Optional Follow-Up Activity: Ask students to sketch or write about a work of art from the tour today that reminded them of a community or tradition they belong to. How was the artwork similar to a personal experience with a community or tradition? Post the work and allow students to look for similarities between their ideas.