



# REFLECTIONS OF CULTURE

Level: **Grades 6-12**Length: **45 minutes**

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Explore world cultures through an examination of personal adornment, including jewelry, costumes, and body modification. Students will gain a better understanding of cultural diversity and how people use personal adornment or ornamentation to communicate social, political and economic information about themselves and the societies in which they live.

## CURRICULUM CORRELATIONS

Students will:

- Discuss the concepts of culture, including learned behaviors passed from generation to generation. **SSPSP1; SSSocC1; SSSocC2; SSSocC3; SSSocC4**
- Identify examples and recognize the differences in personal adornment as reflections of cultural components and methods of communicating information such as group membership, status, and beliefs. **SS6H1b; SS6G10a,b; SS6H4; SS7G4; SS7G8; SS7G12; SS8H1a**

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

In what ways do *symbols* and *adornments* reflect where and how people live?

## PROGRAM VOCABULARY

Anthropology  
Belief Systems

Culture  
Ethnicity

Personal Adornment

## ASSOCIATED VOCABULARY

Achieved Status  
Ascribed Status  
Group

Material Culture  
Non-Material Culture

Ornament  
Rank

Symbol  
Wealth

## PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Review vocabulary with students. Discuss the ways students choose what they wear each day and how they adorn themselves.

## AT THE MUSEUM

Visit the corresponding **Reflections of Culture** exhibit to view the different types of personal ornamentation of cultures throughout the world.

## POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Have students discuss in groups the different ways they adorn themselves and what types of information they may be communicating to others, either intentionally or unintentionally. The discussion could include adornments communicating status, group membership, belief systems, or other themes from the program or exhibit.