



# Reflections of Culture AUDITORIUM PROGRAMS SUMMARY

Level: Grades 6-8  
 Program Length: 45 minutes

Maximum: 150 students  
 Minimum: 25 students

## Description

Explore world cultures through an examination of personal adornment, including jewelry, costumes and body modification such as piercing, tattooing, scarring, shaping and painting. This program gives students 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.

## Objectives

Students will:

- List and describe the three principle ways people around the world adorn themselves.
- Recognize that personal adornment differs from culture to culture.
- List examples of the different types of adornment used by people around the world.
- Name a variety of materials that are commonly used in the creation of personal ornamentation.
- Discuss the types of information we can learn about an individual from the types of ornamentation they choose to wear.
- Name types of adornment (e.g., uniforms, tattoos, headdresses, hairstyles) people use to communicate their group membership, status and beliefs.

## Curriculum Correlations

The *Reflections of Culture* auditorium program and permanent exhibition provide an excellent platform for discussing cultural diversity, anthropology, cultural geography, artistic expression and resource availability. English Language Arts GPS standards for reading and viewing and Social Studies Matrix information processing skills such as comparing similarities and differences, artifact analysis, drawing conclusions and making generalizations can easily be accomplished during your visit.

## Vocabulary

Adornment	Culture	Material culture	Rank
Anthropology	Gemstones	Ornament	Status
Wealth	Group	Religion	Symbol
Body modification			

## Pre-Visit Activity

- Review vocabulary
- Discuss the different types of adornment your students are familiar with and some of the reasons people wear the things they do (e.g., climate, availability of materials, tradition).
- Distribute copies of the *Reflections of Culture* gallery guide so that students can become familiar with the themes and the objects that are presented in the gallery. A copy of the gallery guide is available on our Web site.

## At the Museum

Visit the *Reflections of Culture* exhibition and study the different types of personal ornamentation used by various cultures around the world. Students should focus on identifying the types of adornment that are commonly used to communicate different kinds of information as well as the similarities and differences between the pieces in the collection, including such characteristics as shape, decoration and raw material utilization (e.g., metals, hide, gems, shell, plant fiber). You may want to have students find artifacts from several different regions of the world to test their geography skills.

## Post-Visit Activity

Divide students into groups or pairs and have them discuss the different ways they adorn themselves and what types of information they may be intentionally or unintentionally communicating to others. Have them focus their attention on identifying adornment that relates to the themes presented in the exhibition, including status (marital, rank, wealth), group membership (family, ethnic, voluntary) and belief systems (symbols, religious attire, devotional containers, raw materials).