



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:

1. Discuss the concepts of culture, including learned behaviors passed from generation to generation. **SSPSP1; SSSocC1; SSSocC2; SSSocC3; SSSocC4**
2. 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	Culture	Personal Adornment
Belief Systems	Ethnicity	

ASSOCIATED VOCABULARY

Achieved Status	Material Culture	Rank
Ascribed Status	Non-Material Culture	Symbol
Group	Ornament	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

Be sure to 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.