

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Traditions

Preparation

Overview and Objectives

This lesson is geared toward families.

Participants will learn about several Navy traditions and compare them to their own traditions.

This lesson includes a [slideshow](#) in which an instructor can lead participants through

Instructional Modalities

This activity was designed for both synchronous or asynchronous instruction.

For **synchronous instruction**, we recommend a platform that allows both for whole class discussion and for students to interact in small groups.

For **asynchronous adaptations**, we provide suggestions for teachers to provide additional support for the activities and for students to share their work with each other.

Materials

- [Traditions Family Slideshow](#)
- [Plan a Holiday Meal worksheet](#)
- **Coloring materials**

Lesson

1. Introductory Activity

- Participants will discuss traditions they practice and compare them to those practiced on *Intrepid*. Explain to participants the definition of the word tradition. Educators can share some traditions they celebrate to encourage participation.
 - **What traditions do you celebrate? (National, Religious, Family)**

Family Discussion Questions

What traditions do we celebrate together?

What is your favorite tradition to celebrate?

How do our traditions compare to those celebrated by the Navy?

- Participants will watch a one-minute video about traditions practiced on *Intrepid* and *Growler* during the holidays.
 - **Were there any similarities between the sailors' traditions and yours?**
 - **Did you notice any differences?**
- Explain to participants that one of the biggest Navy traditions is the commissioning ceremony. A commissioning ceremony is the celebration of a ship becoming part of the Navy. At the ceremony, the ship's sponsor, traditionally a woman, smashes a bottle of champagne against the boat to christen it.
 - **How do you think Mrs. Hoover felt when it took her three tries to smash the champagne bottle?**
 - **How does a commissioning ceremony compare to traditions you celebrate?**

2. Core Activity

- Explain to participants that one major tradition on board *Intrepid* was called Crossing the Line. When *Intrepid* crossed the equator, the ship celebrated with different sporting events and foods. Sailors who had never crossed the equator before, who were called polliwogs, had to complete activities like obstacle courses and wear dress up in silly outfits. They also had to eat from a different menu than the shellbacks, who had already crossed the equator.
- Show the example Crossing the Equator menu. Ask participants to look closely at the menu items for Shellbacks and Polliwogs.
 - **How was the Polliwogs' menu different from the Shellbacks'?**
 - **Can you point out some of the silly foods the polliwogs had to eat?**
- Explain to participants that food wasn't only important during Crossing the Line. It was especially important during the holidays. Many sailors missed home and their traditional foods at times like Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Christmas. During these holidays, the kitchen on *Intrepid* would make special foods for the men on board. Because the men were from all different states and regions in the United States, and some from all over the world, the cooking staff would make traditional foods from lots of different cultures.

- Provide participants with the Plan a Holiday Meal worksheet and coloring materials. They will plan a holiday meal based on their family traditions. Encourage participants to choose foods that are meaningful to them and that they would miss if they were out to sea for many months.

Asynchronous Adaptation

Have participants go through the [slideshow](#) on their own and create their own holiday meal. Ask them to draw pictures of the food and upload a photo of it to Padlet or Google Drive.

Extension Activities

To deepen student engagement with this content, you may choose to add the following activities :

Holiday Cards

As participants saw in the Intrepid Minute video clip, sailors on board *Intrepid* and *Crowler* did many things to celebrate the winter holidays. Because sailors were often away from their families for long periods of time, they would make holiday cards to send to their loved ones. They would also receive cards from friends and family back home. Have participants make their own holiday cards as if they were spending the holidays on *Intrepid*. Encourage them to be creative and use a variety of colors and shapes.

Additional Resources/ References

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ACTIVITY: PLAN A HOLIDAY MEAL

Directions

Use the template below to plan a meal for your holiday aboard *Intrepid*. What foods are important to your family or community? Are there any foods you eat on special occasions? What foods would you miss if you were out to sea for many months at a time?

The form is a large rounded rectangle with a double-line border. Inside, there are five smaller shapes arranged in two rows. The top row contains three shapes: a rounded rectangle on the left, a circle in the center, and a rounded rectangle on the right. The bottom row contains two rounded rectangles side-by-side.