

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

Traditions

Preparation

Overview and Objectives

This lesson is geared toward students with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

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

Facilitators will encourage participants to draw connections between their own religious and family traditions and those celebrated by the Navy in varied situations.

This lesson includes a [slideshow](#) in which an instructor can lead participants through the definition of tradition, a comparison of traditions in their lives and those on *Intrepid* and a fun activity about food on board.

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 I/DD Slideshow](#)
- [Crossing the Line Worksheet](#)
- **Optional: Crayons, markers, stickers, glitter**

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

Discussion Questions

What traditions do we celebrate together?

What is your favorite tradition to celebrate?

word tradition. Educators can share some traditions they celebrate to encourage participation.

- **What traditions do you celebrate? (National, Religious, Family)**
- 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.
 - **How is a commissioning ceremony similar to a birthday celebration?**

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 a special menu to eat from.
- 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?**
- Using the [worksheet](#) or blank sheet of paper, participants will combine a food with something silly to create a menu item for polliwogs. Ask participants to share their silly polliwog food.

Asynchronous Adaptation

Have participants go through the [slideshow](#) on their own and [create their own polliwog menu item](#). Ask them to draw a picture of the food and upload a picture of it to Padlet or Google Drive.

Extension Activities

To deepen participant 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.

The Museum is deeply grateful to the funders that make our education programs possible:



*This project was made possible in part by the
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Award ID:
CAGML-247144-OMLS-20*