

HIGHLIGHTING THE HISTORY AND EXPERIENCE OF JEWISH AMERICANS -A 30 MINUTE LESSON-

Imagine a thread, not a single strand, but an intricate, interwoven cord stretching across continents and centuries. This cord, shimmering with diverse colors and textures, represents the Jewish people. It binds together individuals from the bustling streets of New York to the sun-drenched hills of Jerusalem, from the ancient synagogues of Eastern Europe to the modern classrooms of America. This lesson will unravel this fascinating cord, exploring the very essence of what makes Jewish Americans an ethnic group, a people united by a shared history, culture, and a deep sense of peoplehood.

The [Jewish Americans Identity, History, and Experience Fact Sheet](#) will serve as the lesson's compass, providing key historical markers and cultural touchstones to navigate the vibrant mosaic of Jewish American history and experience. It will ensure that discussions are grounded in factual information, fostering a shared understanding of the Jewish American community's experiences.

Essential Questions

- How are Jewish Americans an ethnic group?
- What are key positive and negative experiences of Jewish Americans both historically and today?

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Understand what makes Jewish Americans an ethnic group
- Grasp the concept of Jewish peoplehood and how it unites Jewish Americans across diversity
- Grasp the historical and social context of Jewish American immigration
- Analyze the process of acculturation and assimilation for Jewish Americans
- Recognize the various ways Jewish identity is expressed
- Learn about the geographic origins of Jewish communities
- Develop empathy and perspective-taking skills

Materials Needed

- [Pre-Instruction Student Self-Assessment](#) (you will be instructed to make a copy)
- [ICS's Jewish Americans Identity, History, and Experience Fact Sheet](#)
- [Learning Check on Jewish Americans: Identity, History, and Experience](#) (a digital resource)
- [Post-Instruction Student Self-Assessment](#) (you will be instructed to make a copy)

Lesson Plan

1. PRE-LEARNING STUDENT SELF-ASSESSMENT

Have students complete the [Pre-Instruction Student Self-Assessment](#).

2. INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY

1. Arrange students into small groups of 2-3. This can also be done as a whole group activity.
2. Provide each group with the [Jewish Americans Identity, History, and Experience Fact Sheet](#) and review the contents together.
3. Have the students participate in the [Learning Check on Jewish Americans: Identity, History, and Experience](#) (a digital resource), as an opportunity to check their learning. This can be done independently or in small groups. There are opportunities for think time where students can write their answers down before suggested responses are revealed.

3. LEARNING ASSESSMENTS

- Informal Assessments:
 - a. Have students complete the [Post-Instruction Student Self-Assessment](#).
 - b. Observe students' participation in class discussions and their completion of activities.