



NEBRASKA BY HEART

Folk Arts • Traditional Arts • Folklife
Curriculum Unit • Grades 6–8
nebraskafolklife.org



Teacher's Resource

Some Questions To Ask a Traditional Artist or Tradition Bearer

These questions will need to be adapted to the particular art(s) or tradition(s) about which the person is being invited to demonstrate or speak about to the class. Feel free to change the wording and the order of the questions to fit the situation.

Would you please tell us something about this art (tradition) and its history?

How did you learn to _____?

How is the art (tradition) used (performed)?

When or for what occasions is the art (tradition) used (performed)?

What is your earliest memory of (art or tradition)?

Are there signs of young people being interested in this art (tradition)? How are younger folks reacting to your work?

If you could decide what the future of this traditional art form will be, what would you like to see happen?

What types of cultural traditions do you remember from your childhood? (like traditional foods, weddings, dances, holiday celebrations, proverbs, other verbal expressions, etc.)

Would you please share a family story or two about life in (home region, ancestors' country) or (the trip to the U.S) (arriving in Nebraska) (early farming, etc)?

What was it like living around _____ as you were growing up? (school experiences, community attitude, speaking another language than English, etc.)

Would you please tell us about a memory you have of a family or community celebration (a wedding or anniversary custom) (a Christmas, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year, Diwali or other holiday celebration or festival)?

What are some of your favorite traditional foods? Do you have recipes for them?

How is _____ prepared?

Would you please describe the traditional dress, (traditional houses, etc) in your home country?

What is it about this art (these traditions) that draws you to it (them)?

Why is it important to preserve this art (tradition)?

Is there anything you'd like to add, any thoughts you'd like to leave with the class before we end our discussion today?