

# American Experiences Abroad

## An Interview

### GOAL

Students will learn to conduct effective interviews to define culture and describe examples of what creates cultural differences.

### OVERVIEW

This lesson lets students put themselves in Lee's shoes of being a newcomer to a country and emphasizes how much other nations impact the United States. This activity gives students opportunities to improve research skills, increase knowledge about other nations, and to more fully understand the U.S. role in the world. This unit is appropriate for lessons in communications, language arts, journalism, broadcasting and social sciences.

### METHODOLOGY

- Students are asked to find people who have visited, worked in, or served military time in various foreign countries.
- Students interview their candidates about their experiences in a foreign country resulting in a surprising variety of information and perspectives.

Direct them to ask for information such as:

- During what years were you in the foreign country?
- What made you want to go there?
- What local customs do you most remember?
- What was the climate and weather like and how did it influence the culture?
- How was this country most different from the U.S.?
- How were the people most like the people in the U.S.?
- What were the attitudes of the people toward the U.S.?
- Did people there wish to live in the United States and if so, why?
- What were the living conditions you experienced there and what seemed to be the conditions for the average citizen?
- What portion of the society seemed wealthy? Impoverished?
- What were the dominant religious groups?
- Would you like to live in that country? If so, why, and if not, why not?
- Did the experience there make you feel more grateful or resentful toward the United States and why?
- What political event most concerned the local people during your stay in their country?
- What was the single most memorable experience for you in that country?

Encourage students to brainstorm and add other questions.

### ADDITIONAL OPTION

- Give students an opportunity to speak to the class outlining their interview in a speech form, written form for a publication, or videotaped for broadcast.

