

RESOURCE SHEET – LISTENING MATERIAL – ENGLISH

Title: Italian Americans in the USA

Short description:

Maria and Carla talk about different traditions Italian people kept after moving to the USA and passed on their children and grandchildren.

Vocabulary support:

pocket – smaller version of Italian town, an area with a relatively high percentage of members of a culture that is not the main culture of the country (here Italian in USA)

liberal – broad-minded, tolerant (Merriam-Webster dictionary)

distinct – different

conservative – traditional, conventional (Merriam-Webster dictionary)

the Sopranos – drama series about a mafia family in New Jersey

crucifix – a model of a cross with a figure of Jesus Christ on it, as a symbol of the Christian religion (Oxford Learners' Dictionaries)

rosary – a string of beads that are used by some Roman Catholics for counting prayers as they say them (Oxford Learners' Dictionaries)

nativity – the birth of Jesus Christ, celebrated by Christians at Christmas (Oxford Learners' Dictionaries)

Brooklyn: a borough in New York famous for its diversity

saint - a person that the Christian Church recognizes as being very holy, because of the way they have lived or died (Oxford Learners' Dictionaries)

Questions for Comprehension:

1. Where in the USA can one find groups of people with Italian background today?
2. What objects/habits/actions connected to Catholic Christianity does Maria mention?
3. What differences did Maria experience as a child between her family and the families of her friends?

Tasks for reflection/discussion:

1. Today's USA has developed from the British colonies in America. What was the religion of the British colonists? What is the relation between this religion and the Catholic beliefs of the Italian immigrants Maria is talking about? How did the relation between these religions influence the relation between the people? Discuss also why some traditions might be kept by people and some might change.
2. Make a search for at least 2 objects/traditions/ideas/actions connected to Catholic Christianity that Maria mentions. Describe them and explain how they are used/what they mean for the Catholics. How does religion and religious symbols play a role for cultural identity? What else plays a role for one's cultural identity?
3. Maria talks about her family being different from the other families around them. Being different is something many people might experience. Think about your friends and classmates: In what ways are you different from them and in what ways are you similar to them?
4. What are the challenges and benefits of living in a multicultural society?

Kompetansemål:

- utforske og reflektere over mangfold og samfunnsforhold i den engelskspråklige verden ut fra historiske sammenhenger
- lese, diskutere og reflektere over innhold og virkemidler i ulike typer tekster, inkludert selvvalgte tekster
- uttrykke seg nyansert og presist med flyt og sammenheng, idiomatiske uttrykk og varierte setningsstrukturer tilpasset formål, mottaker og situasjon
- bruke mønstre for uttale i kommunikasjon