

## Exploring Origins

## Exploring Stories of Origins

**From Another Angle**

### COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES:

1. Invite students to research and present the solar system origin story from their own culture. For middle level classes, the students may want to invite their parents to participate in the presentations.

**Communication skill: informative speaking**



2. For students who want to work independently, offer the opportunity to write and perform a monologue. They will write a script featuring a creation story. Their story will be presented to the class using one of the following multi-media methods:
  - An audio "book on tape" with recorded culturally appropriate musical accompaniment. The student may also design a tape cover using computer graphics.
  - A "one man/woman show" video with recorded culturally appropriate musical accompaniment. The student may also design a tape cover using computer graphics.
  - A live presentation with recorded culturally appropriate musical accompaniment. The student may also design a playbill using computer graphics.

**Communication skills: script writing, dramatic interpretation**

3. With students working as a class, produce an "Investigative Video News Magazine."
  - Form groups of 2-4 students. One group serves as the production film crew and writes 2-3 commercials. The remaining groups write scripts for text set in present day. Potential scene: *reporter visits locale and interviews someone who is believed to be descended from the village historian, a legendary hero, or a folk heroine, etc.*

**Communication skills: script writing, filming, editing, informative speaking, interviewing techniques**

4. Students work in groups of 8-10. Film a *Meeting of the Minds* program. Each group designates one film person who produces the introduction and conclusion with music, one interviewer who writes the interview questions, and the balance of the group serves as characters from creation stories. For the performance, characters should speak extemporaneously in response to the questions. Only the interviewer should work from scripted questions. (The interviewer may choose to share the questions with the cast prior to the performance. However, the characters may not use notes during performance.)

**Communication skills: interviewing techniques, extemporaneous speaking, filming, editing**

### MUSIC ACTIVITIES:

1. Explore how composers such as Gustav Holst express the physical variety among the planets. Visit <http://wso.williams.edu/~ktaylor/gholst/index.html> for a biography and examples of Holst's work.
2. Compare and contrast three or more different forms of folk music. What indicators, if any, show that geographical location contributes to similarities and differences?



### ART ACTIVITY:

1. Compare and contrast two or more different cultural art forms. What indicators, if any, show that geographical location contributes to similarities and differences?