

## Teaching Handouts: Folklore Brainstorming Sheets

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Family Stories**

Who tells the best stories in your family?

About whom are the stories told?

Whose stories are seldom told?

Whose stories would you like to know more about?

Whom could you contact now to find out more details about your family's stories?

What stories do you know about your grandparents?

What stories do you know about your parents?

What stories do you cherish about your siblings, cousins, or other relatives?

Does your family have any really old stories about great grandparents or other relatives?

What part of the country or world did your family move from before they lived where they do now? What are the stories about family migration?

What are the stories about family heroes or those with integrity?

What are the stories about family members surviving adversity?

What are the stories about family lost fortunes?

What are the stories about family courtships?

What are the stories about family cleverness or frugality?

What are the stories about family stubbornness or feuds?

What are the stories about family rogues or trouble makers?

What are the stories about family oddballs, buffoons, or jokers?

What are the stories about family fantastic or supernatural happenings?

What are your family customs?

What are the common careers, hobbies, and entertainment?

What are the special talents of family members?

Where is the family homestead?

What are the treasured family possessions?

What are the family's favorite foods and treats?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Community History**

What communities have you lived in that you find interesting?

Whom do you know who knows the most about the history of this town or neighborhood?

Where has some of this history been written down?

What are the local histories of famous events?

What are the local histories of natural disasters?

What are the local histories of famous people and families?

What are the local histories of businesses, buildings, and favorite hangouts?

What are the local histories of technological changes in travel, water, electricity, etc.?

What are the local traditions, festivals, and special events?

What are the local legends and tall tales?

What are the local histories and traditions of the school district?

What are the local histories of city government, police, and road engineers?

What are the local land formations?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Peer Group Identity**

Name groups that you have participated in related to sports, exercise, teams, competition, games, etc.

Name groups that you have participated in related to your community, religion, school, ancestry, etc.

Name groups that you have participated in related to jobs, careers, or skills.

Name groups that you have participated in related to hobbies, crafts, entertainment, music, art, dance, drama, gardening, clubs, food, etc.

Name groups that you have participated in related to shopping parties, flea markets, yard sales, auctions, collectibles, ebay, festivals, fund raisers, etc.

Name groups that you have participated in related to politics, special interests, laws, city regulations, etc.

Name groups or activities that you have read a lot about in magazines, books, newsletters, websites, news groups, etc.

### **Select one group for the following questions:**

What special terminology or jargon does this group use?

What are this group's gatherings and traditions?

What are this groups special dress or decorations?

What special knowledge or skills does this group have?

How is this special knowledge shared with other group members?

Who has the most power in this group and what type of power do these people have?

How are new members brought into the group?

How has the group changed over the years?

What would not be permitted or tolerated by group members?

What is the oddest thing that this group does?

What basic things should be purchased in order to participate in special practices?

When are group members competitive with others?

How and when do people leave the group?

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