

## [Teacher's Notes]

### Religious Places of Worship - Research Project

**RESEARCH PROCESS – this can take as much time as you want.**

#### **1. Places to Visit**

- First, see if any of the ELLs know of places of worship that their classmates might be able to visit. If they are able, let them ask for the exact contact info, etc.
- After that, I found it's just easier for the teacher to connect with the religious sites. Often, there's a language barrier that teachers can figure out.

#### **2. ELLs choose which religion they want to learn about.**

- Usually groups of 3 work best (of course, multilingual groups as well)
- I try to have at least one very strong person in each group (or one that is savvy with the public transportation system).

#### **3. ELLs read about the religion through books and the internet**

- Most public libraries have great picture books about religion
- This knowledge provides a basis for the questions that they will ask.

#### **4. ELLs design their research questions (see next page)**

- I always check the questions for politeness & political correctness just in case 😊

#### **5. The teacher provides the groups with their places**

- If transportation is awkward to a particular site, I make sure that I meet the students there.
- At my school, I'm not allowed to have students in my own vehicle, but Students can ride with each other.

#### **6. ELLs design and Present a Poster / Powerpoint**

- I'm sure you have ideas for how to do this, so I won't bother with the presentation guidelines and evaluation methods.

#### **7. Enjoy and Learn!**

## Religious Places of Worship Research Project

### Research Process

#### **1. You will choose a religion you want to learn about.**

- Let's organize groups of 3 by topics – not best friends! 😊

#### **2. As a group you will find out general information about the religion and the actions of the believers by reading books in the library and/or online.**

- Bring the books and printed webpages to class to share with your group.

#### **3. Developing your interview questions.**

##### **Here are some ideas to get you started with your questions:**

- three or more main/ key points about this religion
- the duties of the leader (Priest, Pastor, Rabbi, Imam...)
- the people who go there (ages/ where they come from/...)
- any issues/problems the religion may have with mainstream culture
- some details about the worship time (when/ how/who - men and women together?, etc)
- the rituals during the worship time (things to do and NOT to do)
- items you see and their meanings/ importance (certain books? statues?, etc)
- the history of the building (Did some money come from other countries (“the homeland”?)
- what other uses the building has (weddings? Community groups? food bank? etc)

#### **4. Contacting the place of worship.**

- One of you will make the appointment.
- You will visit, interview, take notes and take photos.
- Be sure to ask permission to take photos – especially of people!
- Please try to get at least one photo of the outside of the building (and the person who helped you)
- Another person in the group will write a THANK YOU note (which everyone signs)

#### **5. Designing a Poster or Powerpoint**

- You will have some time to do this in class, but most of the work will have to be done outside of class.