

WASHINGTON DC PRESENTS

LEARNING ON LOCATION

Episode 4: Passport DC

DISCUSSION



1. How would you define culture? What elements of your culture do you think are important?
2. Check out how Sister Cities International defines a sister city and give a short summary. How does the Sister City relationship benefit the people who live in both cities?
3. Take a look at Cultural Tourism DC's programs—is there one that you would enjoy? Why?
4. If your town had a Heritage Trail, what would be included?
5. As you saw in the video, many different cultures make up Washington, DC. Did you see any similarities to your hometown?
6. Which location highlighted in this video would you most like to see on a trip to Washington, DC?



EXPLORATION



EMBASSIES AND CULTURAL CENTERS

- Take this online Embassy Row Tour. Why do countries have embassies? Why would a country not be allowed to have an embassy?
- DC has a number of cultural centers, including the Korean Cultural Center in the Dupont Circle neighborhood. How does a cultural center differ from an embassy?

CULTURAL TOURISM DC

- [Take a look at this video](#) of a previous Passport DC event. What cultural aspects do you notice? What country's offerings are you most excited to experience in person?
- Cultural Tourism DC partners with Events DC for the [Embassy Chef Challenge](#). How do you think food and drink creates "cultural diplomacy"?

SISTER CITIES

- [Search for your city](#) or a city you visited in the Sister Cities International database. How many sister cities did you find? Were there any sister cities that surprised you?

ETHIOPIA

- As discussed in the video, buna (the Ethiopian word for coffee) is made through a multi-step process, as shown [in this video](#) at DC's own [Sidamo Coffee & Tea](#). How do you feel this ceremony adds to the experience of drinking coffee or building community?
- Staples of Ethiopian cuisine are discussed in the audio series, [Ethiopians in DC: Stories of Tradition and Culture](#). How many foods do you eat that are part of your family's traditions?

EL SALVADOR

- The [DC History Center](#) in Mount Vernon Square has both online and in-person exhibits that preserve and illuminate Washington, DC's diverse residents. [Watch](#) their recent discussion on cultural identity for the Salvadoran community. Define "cultural identity" and explain how you maintain your cultural identity in your hometown.
- Check out this [pupusa cooking demonstration](#) from Audi Field's Chef Jocelyn. Try to make some at home! What ingredients would you use for your pupusa?

CHINA

- [Watch this video](#) on the Great Race story that inspired the order of Lunar New Year zodiac signs. [Read this article](#) to determine your Chinese zodiac sign.
- The gift of the Giant Pandas to the National Zoo helps to maintain the population of this endangered species. [Read this interview](#) with keeper Nicole MacCorkle, as she discusses caring for these amazing animals.

JAPAN

- The Bonsai museum at the U.S. National Arboretum includes a Japanese pavilion with gifts from Japan to honor the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976. [Take a look at this documentary](#) showing the original 53 bonsai trees that came from Japan to start the collection.
- While we covered many aspects of Japanese culture in DC in the video, there are more to be found on the [Japan Cultural Tourism trail](#). Research one of the sites listed in the trail. Why did you choose that site?

OTHER COUNTRIES TO EXPLORE

- Unfortunately, we didn't have enough time in our video to include all the countries represented in Washington, DC. For more information, take some time to research the [Indian Embassy](#) and [Ghandi Memorial](#), the [Old Korean Legation Museum](#) or the [Mexican Cultural Tourism DC Trail](#).

SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

- [Take a look at this video series](#) about the festival. Does your family have a "tradition bearer"?
- What message do you think the Smithsonian is sending by having so many countries showcased on the National Mall? Imagine how you would have a similar festival in your hometown.

RESOURCES

[Visit Washington, DC](#)

[Cultural Tourism DC](#)

[The Embassy of Ethiopia](#)

[Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African Art](#)

[The Embassy of El Salvador](#)

[Organization of American States Art Museum of the Americas](#)

[Smithsonian Latino Center](#)

[Cultural Office, Embassy of the People's Republic of China](#)

[Friendship Arch](#)

[Smithsonian National Zoo](#)

[Chinese American Museum](#)

[The Embassy of Japan](#)

[National Cherry Blossom Festival](#)

[Sakura Matsuri Street Festival](#)

[National Bonsai & Peijing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum](#)

[National Museum of Asian Art \(Freer-Sackler Galleries\)](#)

[Smithsonian Folklife Festival](#)

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