



Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast

Teacher Guide



Holidays on Display

with curator William Lawrence Bird

Podcast Link: <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/holiday.mp3>

Video Podcast Link: http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/holiday_enhanced.m4a

Related Images: <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/holiday.zip>

Pre-Listening Questions

- What kinds of holiday traditions do you have in your family or community?
- Have you ever been to a holiday parade? Have you seen the Macy's Thanksgiving parade on television or in person? What do you think is the purpose of the parade? Why would Macy's sponsor an event like this one?

Discussion Questions

The following questions can be used for in-class discussion or short written responses from students after listening to the podcast.

- What kinds of things do you see when you go shopping today that are similar or meant to have the same effect as the holiday displays described in the podcast?
- Now that you know more about the history and art of display, does it change the way you see holiday traditions like parades and shopping center decorations? Why or why not? How does the art of display affect the way we have come to see holiday traditions like parades and shopping center presentations?
- If you were operating a downtown department store during today, what kinds of things would you do to bring more people into your store?

Related Resources—for continued instruction or resources for your students' research

National Museum of American History:

Holidays on Display Online Exhibit –

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/holidays-on-display/introduction>

Thinkfinity:

Low Consumer Confidence Limits Holiday Spending—from EconEdLink

<http://www.econedlink.org/interactives/index.php?iid=5>

Culture Goggles: Same Holiday, Different Lands—from Xpeditions

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/06/gk2/holidays.html>

National Standards—from the National Center for History in the Schools

Era 9: Postwar United States (1945 to early 1970s)

1A: The student understands the extent and impact of economic changes in the postwar period.

Have your students email their question, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

Find this podcast and more at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts>



Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

Listen to the podcast. Take notes and answer the questions.

1. What kinds of things do you see when you go shopping today that are similar or meant to have the same effect as the holiday displays described in the podcast?

2. Now that you know more about the history and art of display, does it change the way you see holiday traditions like parades and shopping center decorations? Why or why not?

3. If you were operating a downtown department store during today, what kinds of things would you do to bring more people into your store?

Give it a try and email your question, comments, and discoveries to historyteachers@si.edu

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