

## **Exploring Family Geography to Create Classroom Community**

**Aim: Students explore and reflect on the roots of their own culture and build a classroom environment that supports authenticity and community**

### **Sequence of Activities**

- 1. Warm up:** In circle, say your name followed by a food your family enjoys together
  
- 2. Human Mapping:**
  - A. Using the center of the space as a starting place (CURRENT SCHOOL) -- move to where you currently live.
  - B. Build a gesture and phrase that represents that neighborhood. Share amongst participants
  - C. Using center of space as NYC (OR CURRENT LOCATION), move to where you were born.
  - D. Build an individual gesture that represents that space.
  - E. Using center as NY State (OR CURRENT STATE), move to where your grandparents were born
    - i. Connect with those around you.
    - ii. Share what you know about the area – food, language, traditions, mythology, symbols, and important/significant animals.

### **3. Creating Symbols:**

In same small groups of adjacent country/areas, participants agree on an area/location and one significant/important animal to represent that area.

### **4. Statement of Meaning:**

Each group then crafts a “Statement of Meaning” that includes: What animal they are, where they are from, what makes them important/significant, what they mean to their community/culture

### **5. Share out:**

Each group will get chart paper/poster board to illustrate or design their "Statement of Meaning." Posters can be hung around the classroom to represent cultural identity.