

◇ Chapter 4
Families in a Changing World

Relationship Skills

CELEBRATE TRADITION

Traditions are customs that are repeated over time and often passed from one generation to another. In families, traditions bring people together, creating bonds and cultural links to the past. Traditions help families define themselves. Family members learn how they are united by certain qualities and common interests.

A tradition may be something as simple as always having a special dessert for dinner to celebrate good report cards or making homemade gifts for family members on their birthday. More elaborate cultural traditions might mark the celebration of special holidays. These might include certain foods, music, clothing, ceremonies, and activities.

Directions: What traditions are you familiar with? Think about the traditions that are followed in your own family. Ask older family members what traditions they used to follow. Talk with others to learn about different traditions. Then complete the chart below by listing and describing five family traditions that you find interesting. Complete this activity by answering the questions on the next page.

FAMILY TRADITIONS		
	Occasion	Tradition
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

(Continued on next page)

Thinking About Traditions

1. Of the traditions you listed, which is your favorite and why? _____

2. Describe a tradition that is a part of your family's cultural background. What makes it a cultural tradition?

3. Review the functions of the family that are described in Chapter 1. Choose one of the traditions from your list on the previous page and explain how it might help a family fulfill two of these functions.

4. What factors might cause traditions to change over time? _____

5. Society is more mobile today than it was in the past. Do you think this makes tradition more or less important to today's families? Explain your answer.

6. Think of a tradition you would like to begin. It could be something to do within your present family or the family you may have in the future. Describe your idea.
