

A photograph of various fresh vegetables including bell peppers, tomatoes, and leafy greens, arranged in a curved banner.

Dinner Party

Grade Level: Grades 7–12

Objective: To introduce students to the ABC Food America database while enabling them to more deeply explore the foods of two different regions and to consider the similarities and differences among the cuisines.

Duration: 30 minutes – 2 hours

Materials: Dinner Party instructions, individual access to ABC Food America for all participating students

Instructions: Plan a dinner party that combines dishes from two different ethnic groups or regions of the United States. Then create an invitation and a detailed menu for the event.

Assignment 1: Plan your dinner party:

- Select two ethnic groups based upon your own family's national heritage, or simply choose two regions of the country that interest you.
- Read through and review all of the content modules for the two groups or regions in the ABC Food America database. What do these cuisines have in common? In what ways are they different?
- Start imagining a menu that combines dishes in all courses from both groups or regions. To make the dinner party interesting think in terms of presenting dishes that are complementary but still offer variety.

Assignment 2: Write an invitation to the dinner party that includes:

- A title for the dinner party
- The two ethnic groups or regions that are the focus of the food
- An explanation of why you have chosen the two groups or regions
- The date and a time for the dinner party

Assignment 3: Write a detailed menu that can be given to everyone who attends the dinner party.

The menu should include:

- The title of the dinner party
- The names of the two ethnic groups or regions
- Why you chose the two ethnic groups or regions
- The appetizer and why you have chosen it (extra credit: copy and paste a photo of the dish)
- The soup and why you have chosen it (extra credit: copy and paste a photo of the dish)
- The salad and why you have chosen it (extra credit: copy and paste a photo of the dish)
- The main course and why you have chosen it (extra credit: copy and paste a photo of the dish)
- The side dish and why you have chosen it (extra credit: copy and paste a photo of the dish)
- The dessert and why you have chosen it (extra credit: copy and paste a photo of the dish)

Extra Credit: Choose an item from the your menu to make at home. Take a picture of it and include it with your menu.