

## Lesson Plan

### Talking About Traditions

**Book:** *It's Great to Be a Fan in Massachusetts*

**Series:** Sports Nation

**Level:** Voyager

#### Objective

To help students identify how traditions and holidays honor and express the values of particular communities.

#### Supplies

- *It's Great to Be a Fan in Massachusetts*
- Pencils and paper

#### Before the Activity

Have students read Chapter 4 (“Bay State Traditions”) of *It's Great to Be a Fan in Massachusetts*.

#### Activity

Patriots' Day is a holiday that takes place each year on the third Monday in April. The holiday honors the first battle of the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783). Because Massachusetts played a key role in this war, Patriot's Day is an important holiday in the state. Sports play a large role in Patriots' Day celebrations. The day begins with the start of the Boston Marathon, the oldest marathon in the nation. Then the Red Sox host a game at Fenway Park in the afternoon.

Ask students to think about holidays that are celebrated by their families or communities. Have students discuss the following questions with a neighbor:

- What is one holiday you celebrate?
- How is this holiday related to your family or community's history?
- Are there any traditions you make sure to do each year?
- How do these traditions reflect the heritage or values of your family or community?

Give students a few minutes to discuss ideas with their partners, encouraging them to ask follow-up questions to better understand one another. Then ask students to write a brief autobiographical essay describing the holiday they chose. Students should explain the traditions that are part of the holiday celebrations. Encourage them to use narrative techniques such as descriptive details, sensory language, and dialogue to help readers feel like they are

celebrating the holiday, too. Students should also describe the ways these traditions express their values and heritage.

### **Evaluation**

Could students answer the questions, both with their partners and in their writing? Could they use descriptive details and sensory language to bring the holiday to life for readers?

### **Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' speaking and listening standards, grade 6 (SL 6.1) and writing standards, grade 6 (W 6.3).