

DRIVING Miss Daisy

The World of the Play: Jewish Culture Activity

Research, Discussion and Activity in groups of 2-8.

- Using the Internet, go to the A Portion of the People website at <http://www.lib.unc.edu/apop/index.html>.
- Using the information found on this website and this study guide, construct a timeline that charts and describes the history of Southern Jewish life and times.
- Timeline should include graphic elements and short written descriptions of key historical moments.
- When your timeline is complete, join another group and as a group of 4, research various recipes from Jewish and Southern cuisine. Using recipes from both cultures, create a celebratory dinner menu (e.g., Thanksgiving) for a Jewish Southern family that reflects the blended flavors of both cultures. (See excerpt #2 above for possible ideas.)
- When the menu has been selected, research and select a social activity (e.g., card game) that could be played after dinner. Choose an activity that would have been popular in the South and/or in the Jewish culture during the period 1940 - 1970. As noted in the previous section on "Manners & Appearances, social life was centered on the front parlor, the school, and the church hall (or in Miss Daisy's case, the Temple or Jewish synagogue). In the movie, Driving Miss Daisy, what is the game that Daisy and her Temple friends play at Miss Daisy's home? (Tip: The game shown in the movie did not originate from America or Europe but in the 1930s this game became a modern American version that was popular with many ethnic groups, especially Jewish women.)
- Join another group of 4 to make one group of 8.
- In the large group of 8, share your timelines, menus, and games. What are the similarities and differences between the groups?
- If time and resources allow, learn the rules of one of the games selected and play a round with your group of 8.