

## Identity Bags

Source(s): Franklin, Marie C. "Their Lives Become Brown-Bag Treats." The Boston Globe. February 5, 1995.

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*Below is another way to teach autobiographies using multiple intelligences. Instead of relying on the written word, this project asks students to tap their other senses of sight, sounds, and smells. This can also be an excellent chance to teach public speaking skills.*

1. Distribute brown paper lunch bags to each student.
2. Challenge the students to decorate the outside of their ID bags with drawings, photos, and writings, which capture their personal histories.
3. Next direct students to place in the bag artifacts which also reflect their personal histories. Some bags could include transcripts of interviews with older relatives, samples of food from their ancestral countries, recordings of music, and other tangible objects, which hold memories.
4. Organize a class or a large, whole team sharing. This could actually turn into a bigger event with an emphasis on learning world cultures, promoting individual differences, etc. Think about making this an interdisciplinary topic with your social studies partner. At 7th grade, world geography is a natural fit. This works well at 8th grade, too, with the LA focus of American Unity and Diversity coupled with the social science study of psychology and sociology.