

Objective

Create a poster about the origin of a common superstition and give a group presentation

Think

Read about the meaning and origins of this superstition. Is it common where you're from? What other superstitions involving mirrors do you know?

BREAKING A MIRROR

WHAT IT MEANS Many people say that breaking a mirror will cause seven years of bad luck. If a mirror gets broken, it should be removed from the house and buried.

PLACE OF ORIGIN Ancient Egypt, Greece, and the Roman Empire

HISTORICAL DETAILS Long ago, people looked into lakes and streams to see a reflection of their "other self," which they believed contained part of their spirit. If the reflection was distorted, it was a sign of disaster. When metal mirrors were introduced in Egypt and Greece, people looked into them to determine the future. They were of such poor quality, however, that reflections were often unclear, and in such cases, so was a person's future. Later, with the invention of glass mirrors, the Romans believed that breaking one would cause seven years of bad luck. This was based on the belief that a human being became a new person every seven years. Today this superstition is still commonly believed around the world.



Plan

1. Brainstorm common superstitions on one of these themes or one of your own. Individually choose a superstition and answer as many of the questions below as you can.
2. Now use the Internet to research your superstition. Write the information on cards and print out photos.

good luck and bad luck
marriage and family
animals

holidays
health and illness
sports

- What is the superstition?
- What does it mean?
- Where did it originate?
- What are the historical details?

Put together

1. Share your poster with your group and discuss the information you found.
2. Practice giving a group presentation. Each member should present the information he or she researched.

Present

1. Show your poster to the class and give your presentation.
2. Which group had the most informative and interesting poster?
3. What else do you know about the superstitions presented?