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OUR HISTORY, OUR CITY

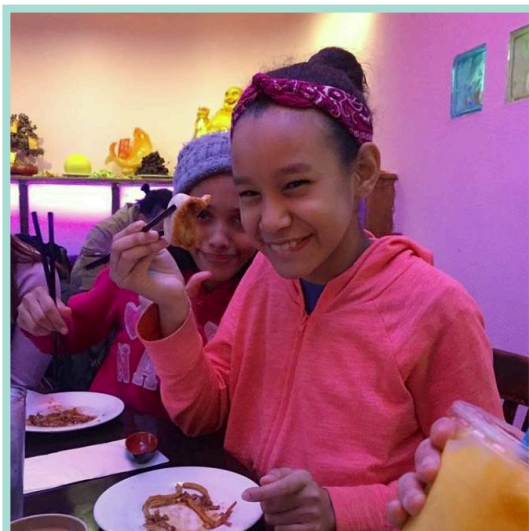
In social studies, students have been learning about different immigrant neighborhoods in New York City, specifically the Lower East Side, Harlem, and Chinatown. They've considered how and why these communities originated, as well as how they've contributed to the overall cultural landscape of New York. After learning about each community, students chose which one they wanted to focus on and created presentations about significant people from those areas. The project culminated in trips to the various neighborhoods, where students took notes and snapped pictures in order to create travel guides focusing on the history and culture of their chosen community.



Students who visited the Lower East Side started at Russ and Daughters, an iconic restaurant that serves traditional foods from Eastern Europe, as well as traditionally Jewish foods. Students sampled chopped liver, smoked salmon, halva, and more. Next they had a walking tour and visited many places they'd learned about in class, including tenements and old storefronts. It was clear to see how cultural fusion and gentrification combine to make an ever-changing urban landscape. Of course, despite the riveting history of this neighborhood, the favorite stop

for most students was the candy shop.

Another group visited Chinatown, where they dined on dumplings and slurped Boba tea. These students went to the Museum of Chinese in America where they saw many interesting exhibits portraying Chinese culture, history and traditions.





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The last group of students spent the day in Harlem. They learned to scatt, and some were brave enough to perform in front of the group! The museum tour guide walked them through the Harlem Renaissance and demonstrated the Lindy Hop. Having worked up an appetite at the museum, they dined at Sylvia's, a nearby soul food restaurant. They really enjoyed the food!



The students had a great time on their trips and were excited to share their field guide presentations with their classmates. The trips were a perfect way to show our students neighborhoods in their home city that are completely different from their own. That's the true beauty of NYC!

