



Create Your Own Cafe Activity

Living In America

Some of the first businesses Arab immigrants opened were cafes that gave the immigrant community a taste of home. These cafes created a safe and delicious space where many Arab immigrants and future generations frequented. Even today, many Arab businesses have some link to their homeland.

Think of your favorite restaurant, cafe or even grocery store. Perhaps when you walk in you feel a sense of comfort, a sense of familiarity or a sense of belonging. Even the products they carry or the name of the establishment can connect with us. Restaurants, including ethnic restaurants often bring a sense of home for many communities. The smells, food, spices, decor and ambiance in general pull on our heartstrings. So many of these establishments tell a story - about the owner, connection to the homeland, etc.

Directions: Design your own restaurant, cafe or grocery store. This establishment should connect with you in some way. Be creative! You may choose to add a creative business name, include a different language, some graphics/mascot or even have the architecture designed a specific way. If you are feeling bold, create a menu or list of products sold at your establishment.

For Educators/Classrooms

Have students do the above assignment. Each student will create a restaurant, cafe or grocery store of their own. Once everyone's establishments have been created, ask students:

- 1.) How does this establishment connect to you, the creator?
- 2.) Is there a cultural connection in any way? If yes, please explain.
- 3.) Why did you add the pieces that you did?

4.) What does your building say about you?

5.) What message did you try to convey?

6.) What purpose does this establishment serve in the community?