Ideas for discussion and activities in the classroom:

The Cultural Contributions of the Arts
- Look at the 30 posters made by Rochester schoolchildren in 1920. What did they choose to represent their homeland culture?
- Create a poster today that reflects your cultural history.
- Compile a scrapbook or a mini-museum of the posters.
- Create a Homelands Exhibition in your classroom or school

Language for Critical Analysis
Read the exhibition organizers’ records and the newspaper headlines.
- What words do they use to describe the various cultures in Rochester?
- What words used in 1920 have changed in meaning?
- What words would we use today in discussing America’s diversity?

Language for Literary Response and Expression:
- Write a story based on one of the objects seen in the exhibition. Image the life of the people who treasured that object in 1920.
- Choose an object from your own life and use the story of that treasure to tell about you.

Geography and History
- What countries were represented in the Homelands Exhibit?
- Research the 19th and early 20th histories of these countries and learn why people chose to leave home and come to Rochester.
- Read the histories of immigrant groups’ adaptation to life in Rochester; where did they settle in Rochester? An excellent source is the Rochester History database of the Central Library of Rochester.

Using Historical Documents
Examine the photographs and lists of objects in the various exhibits.
- What did people choose to bring with them to America?
- What did they choose to put in the exhibit to tell others about their homelands?
- What personal and family objects would you choose if you were moving to another land?
- What objects do you think most people would choose to represent American culture today?

Technology Analysis and Design:
- What examples can you find of the technology available in 1920?
- Rochester used the concept of a public exhibit to gather people together to look at the treasured objects on display and to meet people from the many communities in the area.
  - What are the advantages and disadvantages of the public exhibition?
  - How would you use the technology of the 21st century to meet a similar goal?