

FOUR WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. Research seasonal holidays from four different perspectives
2. Compare and contrast various holiday customs
3. Understand the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups
4. Use information to create a holiday newspaper

TEKS: SS 3. 13A, 17 A&D, 4.19B, 21A&D, 5. 22B, 24 A&D; LA 3.25B, 26 A&B, fig 19D, 4. 11C, 23B, 24 A&B, figure 19 D, 5.23B, 24A, figure 19D

Materials Needed: Research sources, such as internet sites and print materials, Templates for newsletter (Attachment 1), <http://schoolweb.missouri.edu/poplarbluff.k12.mo.us/lowe/MSWordNewsletter.htm>,

Vocabulary: Kwanza, Hanukah, customs, traditions

Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce lesson by asking students about their favorite holiday customs, whether it is Christmas or another holiday during this time of year.
2. Remind students that in different cultures this time of year is celebrated in different ways. Ask students if any of them are familiar with other customs.
3. Divide the students into four groups. Each group will discover traditions associated with a different holiday celebration. The four holidays to be researched are:
 - a. Christmas
 - b. Hanukah
 - c. Kwanza
 - d. Chinese New Year
4. Each group will use internet or print resources to discover:
 - a. What the holiday commemorates
 - b. Decorations
 - c. Food
 - d. Activities enjoyed
5. Allow time for groups to gather information. Then each group will create a holiday newsletter in which facts and activities will be incorporated.

6. Distribute newsletter template for groups to use to create their newsletter or use online sources, such as <http://schoolweb.missouri.edu/poplarbluff.k12.mo.us/lowe/MSWordNewsletter.htm>. Each newsletter should include as many facts as possible, incorporated into articles about:
 - a. food (including recipes)
 - b. decorations
 - c. the history of the holiday
 - d. family and/or children's activities
 - e. game, quiz, or puzzle
7. Copy the newsletters so that all students have a copy of each one. Students from each group will explain their favorite part of the holiday customs in an oral presentation to the class.

G/T Extension:

Students may create a new holiday, incorporating facets from each of the holidays studied. Food, customs, activities, and decorations about the new holiday should be included.

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Begin your Newsletter

Begin your newsletter by adding a few spaces to your page. This allows Word Art title.

Special Borders

1. Click Format/ Borders and Shading
2. Select Page Border tab
3. Select any of the fancy borders under Art.

Smiley face can be found in Autoshapes.

Clip Art

Insert clip art: Click Insert/Picture/Clip Art and select clip art.

Or go

<http://dgl.microsoft.com> to get a lot new clip art.

Format your picture to make it manageable:

1. Click on your picture
2. Click Format/Picture.
3. Click on the Wrappings Tab and
4. Click None

Now your picture can be placed anywhere on your page.

Symbols

. Click Insert/ Symbol on your menu bar and select the symbol you would like. The symbol size can be adjusted like you a font! Fun!

News Articles

Type in your articles using Microsoft Word

Puzzles and Games

Create your puzzles and games on another page. Cut and paste them into your newsletter.

