



FOUR WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Learning Objectives: The 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 3.10A, 3.14A

Materials Needed: Research materials (internet and print resources), Newsletter Template.

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: what the holiday commemorates, decorations, food, and 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 one newsletter template to each group to use to create their newsletter or use online sources. Each newsletter should include as many facts as possible, incorporated into articles about:
 - a. Food (including recipes)
 - b. Decorations
 - c. History of the holiday
 - d. Family and/or children's activities
 - e. Game, quiz, or puzzle
7. Encourage students to use borders, clip art, photos, and puzzles/word searches in their newsletters.
8. 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.

Extension for Gifted/Talented:

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.

Newsletter Title

Date

Headline

Subhead or byline

Text

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday