

December Holidays Across Cultures

WebQuest Description: Holidays can be a touchy subject in public schools. Whose holiday do we include? Whose holiday do we exclude? Ideally, we should not be making these value judgements, but instead we should be integrating this information into our curriculum to celebrate the diversity of all cultures in an academic manner.

Grade Level: 3-5

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords: Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Three Kings Day, values, tradition, culture, beliefs

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Introduction

Christmas is one of the most exciting holidays of the year and is celebrated in many different countries. Did you know that not everyone celebrates the same holidays as you and your family? How much do you know about the Christmas holiday traditions celebrated by people from different cultures?

Tasks

Your job is to work in groups and learn together about some of the holidays that are celebrated in December such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Three Kings Day. You will research online as well as interview someone in your family about the holidays they celebrate in December. Learn about the beliefs, values and traditions of each holiday as well as the differences and similarities between the celebrations. Then select ideas from each holiday celebration and create a new holiday with your group! Be sure to include in your new holiday the following:

1. name
2. date
3. foods
4. traditions
5. sayings/greetings

Process

Step one: Read the definitions of each term below.

Holiday Belief Tradition Value Culture Celebration

Step two: Learn about some of the different holidays that go on during the month of December.

Step three: Read and learn about the beliefs, values, traditions, differences and similarities of the following holidays:

Christmas Hanukkah Kwanzaa Three Kings Day

Step four: Now that you have interviewed your family members and researched about some of the different holidays celebrated and their beliefs, values and traditions, it is your turn to create your own holiday with your group! Make sure you include the name of your holiday, the date, the foods that will be eaten, any traditions, and sayings/greetings.

Evaluation

Category and Score	Beginning	Developing	Very Good	Outstanding	Score
Students compare and contrast the given holidays. Identifying the beliefs, values and traditions of each.	1	2	3	4	Total
Students create a new holiday.	1	2	3	4	Total
The new holiday includes a name, date, foods, traditions, sayings and /or greetings.	1	2	3	4	Total

Category and Score	Beginning	Developing	Very Good	Outstanding	Score
Students are able to discuss and understand the importance of culture and its differences and similarities that are shown in each holiday.	1	2	3	4	Total
				Total Score	

Conclusion

After talking with your family members and learning all the different cultural holidays celebrated in December and creating your own holiday, can you believe all the similarities and differences there are between them? The differences you learned about are what makes each cultural holiday unique with its different beliefs, values and traditions that are celebrated. These differences are what makes our world a wonderful place to be apart of. The similarities that you learned about are what make us all alike in some way. It is important to respect and understand the differences among people and at the same time see that we all have similarities or a lot in common with each other.

Think about how your beliefs, values, and traditions are different and/or similar to the new holiday that you created in your group!

Teacher Page

This WebQuest is great for a third grade social studies lesson. This lesson follows the following standards: Tennessee Social Studies - Third Grade Culture Standard 1. Culture encompasses similarities and differences among people, including their beliefs, knowledge, changes, values, and traditions. Students will explore these elements of society to develop an appreciation and respect for the variety of human cultures. 3.1.03 Recognize the contributions of individuals and people of various ethnic, racial, religious, socioeconomic groups to the development of civilizations. a. Explain the significance of selected ethnic and/or cultural celebrations in Tennessee, the United States, and other nations such as Kwanzaa. NETS-S1. Creativity and Innovation Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology. a. apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes. b. create original works as a means of personal or group expression. 3. Research and Information Fluency Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information. b. locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media. NETS-T1. Facilitate and Inspire Student Learning and Creativity Teachers use their knowledge of subject matter, teaching and learning, and technology to facilitate experiences that advance student learning, creativity, and innovation in both face-to-face and virtual environments. a. promote, support, and model creative innovative thinking and inventiveness. c. promote student reflection using collaborative tools to reveal and clarify students' conceptual understanding and thinking, planning, and creative processes. 2. Design and Develop Digital-Age Learning Experiences and Assessments Teachers design, develop, and evaluate authentic learning experiences and assessment incorporating contemporary tools and resources to maximize content learning in context and to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes identified in the NETS-S. b. develop technology-enriched learning environments that enable all students to pursue their individual curiosities and become active participants in setting their own educational goals, managing their own learning, and assessing their own progress.

Rationale: According to WeQuest.org a WebQuest is an inquiry-oriented lesson format in which most or all information that learners work with comes from the web. This December Holidays Across Cultures WebQuest is a great learning tool for students to understand the differences and similarities in the holidays celebrated in a variety of cultures. Students engaging in this WeQuest will gain a better appreciation and respect for others and their cultural differences as well as recognize that there are many similarities.

Time Frame: I would allow an hour in class for the students to work together and go through all the links throughout. They are also required to talk to family members which they will have to complete at home and return the next day with information. Then I would allow another hour for the students to get in their groups and compare and contrast the information they have with what they learned the previous day from the WebQuest. During this time they will also work on creating their own holidays and then present them to the rest of the class.

Teacher Resources: <http://www.clipartof.com/portfolio/prawny/popular-designs> http://www.tv scoop.tv/2008/05/bbc_twos_cultur.html http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson213.shtml <http://billybear4kids.com> <http://abklidesigns.com/school1.html> http://mset.rst2.edu/portfolios/h/hunter_s/toolsdev/final/eval.html <http://www.history.com/http://three-kings-day.123holiday.net/http://www.buzzle.com/articles/winter-holidays-around-the-world.html> <http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Standards

Credits

Other