

Christmas Vacation!

WebQuest Description: This web quest is designed for students in grades 3rd through 5th to research how different countries celebrate their holiday season. This web quest can be used for social studies while integrating technology.

Grade Level: 3-5

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords: Christmas WebQuest

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Introduction

Have you ever wondered how people from other countries celebrate Christmas? People from different countries have different traditions when it comes to celebrating the holidays. What would it be like to travel to another country and celebrate the holiday in the manner of the people there? What would the traditions include? What kind of food would you eat while you were there? How different would it be than the traditions that we have here in the United States? Now is your chance to find out!

Tasks

You and a group of 3 other students will be traveling to another country to celebrate the Christmas holiday. Your mission is to research what their traditions are during their holiday season. You don't want to visit another country and be surprised at how you will be spending your holiday. Your group will need to select a country and research the customs and traditions associated with Christmas in that country. You will provide a report to the class describing the customs of the country, the decorations included in the celebration of the holiday, and the foods that are eaten during that time. Other traditions may also be included in your presentation. There are some things to keep in mind:

1. Some children in your class will know nothing of the countries that you are visiting, so you will need to INFORM them.
2. Your audience will also be eager to know what your plans are during holiday celebrations.
3. Your audience should be able to use your ideas if they are ever in the same situation.
4. You may share your information as a paper (typed), dramatic play, or power point presentation.

Process

Some steps that you might like to follow to ensure you create an excellent report are:

1. **CHOOSE** a country you plan on visiting. After your group chooses the country, tell the teacher. Therefore, the other groups do not duplicate countries. First come, first serve! Click <http://www.the-north-pole.com/around/index.htm> for the list of countries. Click <http://www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm> for the list of customs and traditions. Click <http://www.santas.net/recipes.htm> for recipes. Click <http://www.santas.net/songs.htm> for songs.
2. **RESEARCH.** Gather as much information as you can on how you will be celebrating the holidays in the country that your group chose. Be sure to include customs and traditions as well as other things like recipes used to make holiday foods or songs the people sing to help celebrate.
3. **Talk** to your group and record the important things about your own traditional Christmas that the group does not want to change. You may include in your presentation traditions that you want to celebrate while you are visiting that other country. You will share with the class what customs you have that you would want to teach to the people from that country. Drawing a Double Bubble MAP is a good way to do this. By using a double bubble map, your group can compare each other's traditions. Click <http://www.nhcs.k12.nc.us/htree/Curriculum/ThinkingMaps.html#DBM> for an example of a Double Bubble Map. Click <http://www.santas.net/howmerrychristmasissaid.htm> to learn how to say Merry Christmas in different languages.
4. **REPORT.** Now it's time to think about the REPORT. You can type it on the computer, create a dramatic play, or present it using PowerPoint. Remember, you will be presenting your project orally, to your class. Be sure to save it often as you type.

Evaluation

| Category and Score | Beginning 1 | Developing 2 | Very Good 3 | Exemplary 4 | Score |
|--------------------|--|---|--|--|-------|
| Preparedness | Student is completely prepared and has obviously rehearsed. | Student seems pretty prepared but might have needed a couple more rehearsals. | The student is somewhat prepared, but it is clear that rehearsal was lacking. | Student does not seem at all prepared to present. | %25 |
| Speaks Clearly | Speaks clearly and distinctly all (100-95%) the time, and mispronounces no words. | Speaks clearly and distinctly all (100-95%) the time, but mispronounces one word. | Speaks clearly and distinctly most (94-85%) of the time. Mispronounces no more than one word. | Often mumbles or can not be understood OR mispronounces more than one word. | %25 |
| Props | Student uses several props (could include costume, or multimedia tools) that show considerable work/creativity and which make the presentation better. | Student uses 1 prop that shows considerable work/creativity and which make the presentation better. | Student uses 1 prop which makes the presentation better. | The student uses no props OR the props chosen detract from the presentation. | %25 |
| Content | Shows a full understanding of the topic. | Shows a good understanding of the topic. | Shows a good understanding of parts of the topic. | Does not seem to understand the topic very well. | %25 |
| | | | | Total Score | %100 |

Conclusion

Thank you so much for sharing your findings with the rest of the class! I hope you enjoyed following this web quest and learning about the different traditions of people from around the world. Although it was mainly about Christmas, there are also events celebrated at this time of year such as Kwanzaa and Hanukkah. I hope that you research them to learn more about these important holidays. Now that you've finished your work, click <http://akidsheart.com/holidays/christms/chgames.htm> to play some seasonal games. ENJOY!

Teacher Page

This web quest will be very engaging to students. They will be able to apply what they have learned and teach it to their peers. Students are always interested about how other people celebrate their holiday season, why not through a web quest. Students will be able to research how other countries celebrate their holiday season and apply those traditions to their own personal ones. Students will also be able to present their information through a dramatic play, a written report, or a Power Point presentation. Social Studies Standard Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the geography of the interdependent world in which we live—local, national, and global—including the distribution of people, places, and environments over the Earth's surface. NETS Standards II. Planning and Designing learning environments and experiences Teachers plan and design effective learning environments and experiences supported by technology. A. Design developmentally appropriate learning opportunities that apply technology enhanced instructional strategies toward diverse learners. III. Teaching, Learning, and the Curriculum Teachers implement curriculum plans that include methods and strategies for applying technology to maximize student learning. C. Apply technology to develop students' higher order skills and creativity. Learners This web quest was designed for students in second grade through fifth grade. This activity can be altered to meet the needs of the students. Permissions We all benefit by being generous with our work. Permission is granted for others to use and modify this WebQuest for educational, non-commercial purposes as long as the original authorship is credited. The modified WebQuest may be shared only under the same conditions. See the Creative Commons Attribution & Non-Commercial & Share-Alike license for details.

Standards

Credits

Other