



Reasons to Celebrate: Learning about Unfamiliar Holidays

By: Michelle Bouslog

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Holiday
Grades 6–8



Introduction

Think about all the holidays you know of or that your family celebrates. Then think about all the holidays you don't celebrate or have never even heard of. Learning about holidays around the world can help us connect with other cultures and people.

Learning Objectives

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.2.b](#); Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.

Materials Needed

- iPad
- Paper and pencil

Procedure

1. Write these holidays on the board: Ram Navami, Eid, Yulefest, Yom Kippur, Christmas. Ask students if any of them look familiar (hopefully at least one is recognizable). Tell students that while they may recognize at least one of these holidays, there are probably some they do not or do not know much about.
2. Tell students that understanding other people's holidays and celebrations can help us better understand each other. It builds respect, community, and friendship.
3. Today students will research a holiday they do not celebrate themselves. They will write facts about the holiday and provide information on the origin of the holiday.
4. Students should aim for 10+ sentences. They should include a clear topic sentence, transitions, and a conclusion.

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Evaluation

Holidays and Celebrations around the World			
	Proficient <i>15 Points</i>	Emerging <i>10 Points</i>	Beginning <i>5 Points</i>
Holiday	Students chose a holiday they do not celebrate, included 10+ clearly formed sentences.	Students chose a holiday they do not celebrate, included 7-9 clearly formed sentences.	Students chose a holiday they do not celebrate, but only included fewer than 7 sentences. Some sentences were unclear or confusing.
Composition and Mechanics	Students used proper mechanics. They lead with an introduction paragraph, had clear transitions, and a strong closure.	Students used mostly proper mechanics. They lead with an introduction paragraph, had transitions, and a closure. However, some parts were unclear or confusing.	Students did not use proper mechanics. They did not lead with an introduction paragraph, use clear transitions, and did not have a closure or the closure was lacking.