

Winter Holidays

Grade Level: 7-12

Subject/Content: Social Studies/World Religions/Anthropology

Summary of Lesson: Students will compare and contrast winter holidays celebrated within the United States and around the world

Focus Question: What do various holidays have in common and how are they different?

Resource(s): *Student Resources In Context*

Procedures by Teacher:

1. Arrange for access to the resource
2. Provide time for research
3. Copy comparison chart worksheet

Holiday Comparison Chart

Directions: Use *Student Resources In Context* to complete this chart comparing winter holidays. Use the research you gather to answer these questions. You may use additional paper if necessary.

Holiday	Group(s) Who Celebrate It	Places Celebrated	Historical Background	Traditions (How It's Celebrated)	Meaning or Significance of the Celebration	Symbols
Chanukah						
Christmas						
Kwanzaa						
Ramadan & Eid ul-Fitr						
Winter Solstice						

Steps/Activities by Student(s):

1. Use the online resource to complete the Holiday Comparison Chart
2. Use the information gathered to complete the follow-up questions

Holiday Comparison Chart Follow-Up Questions

- What do these holidays/celebrations have in common? (For example: most are related to an organized religious group)
- What differences do you see that could potentially cause conflict between the people who celebrate these holidays?

Outcome: Students will have a greater understanding of the meaning behind various winter celebrations, what they have in common and how they are different

Related Activities: Students may choose one aspect of a celebration researched and bring in the materials to share it with the class (examples: teach the class to play dreidel, bring in a Koran and show how to pray)

Content Standard(s):

- Analyze and explain the ways groups, societies and cultures address human needs and concerns
- Predict how data and experiences may be interpreted by people from diverse cultural perspectives and frames of reference
- Compare and analyze societal patterns for preserving and transmitting culture while adapting to environmental or social change
- Investigate, interpret and analyze multiple historical and contemporary viewpoints within and across cultures related to important events, recurring dilemmas, and persistent issues, while employing empathy, skepticism and critical judgment

Performance Indicators:

- At Level 1, the student is able to:
 - Identify the characteristics of each holiday researched.
- At Level 2, the student is able to:
 - Analyze the similarities and differences between these holidays.
- At Level 3, the student is able to:
 - Evaluate the impact of these holidays on modern religious based conflict.

Computer Literacy and Usage Standards 9-12:

- Predict how data and experiences may be interpreted by people from diverse cultural perspectives and frames of reference
- Demonstrate the value of cultural diversity, as well as cohesion, within and across groups
- Describe the ways family, religion, gender, ethnicity, nationality, socioeconomic status and other group and cultural influences contribute to the development of a sense of self

ISTE NETS for Students

- Develop cultural understanding and global awareness by engaging with learners of other cultures
- Plan strategies to guide inquiry
- Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media
- Process data and report results

Information Power; Information Literacy Standards 1-4:

- Select and apply technology tools for research, information analysis, problem solving and decision making in content learning