

ROBERSON MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

Post-Visit Home for the Holidays/Holiday Traditions (The International Forest)

Grade level: K-3

New York State Standards: Arts 1, 2, 4; SS 1, 2, 3; ELA 1, 4

Pennsylvania Learning Standards: A&H 9.2; H 8.3, 8.4

Objectives: Students will categorize what they saw and experienced on their trip while noting similarities between cultures celebrating Christmas. After learning more about the other winter holidays, they will complete a chart while comparing these holidays to Christmas.

Materials:

- Large chart paper or butcher paper
- Holiday books:
 - Heiligman, D. (2008). *Celebrate Hanukkah*. New York: National Geographic Children's Books Publishers.
 - Heiligman, D. (2009). *Celebrate Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr*. New York: National Geographic Children's Books Publishers.
 - Shelf Madeiris, A. (2004). *Seven Spools of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story*. Park Ridge, IL: Albert Whitman & Company.
 - Strain Trueit, T. (2006). *Diwali*. CT: Children's Press.
- Poster paper

Procedure:

1. On a large chart or sheet of butcher paper, create a chart entitled **Holidays around the World**. Down the left side list the categories: **light, food, decorations, and traditions**. Across the top of the chart list the categories: **Christmas, Hanukkah, Diwali, Ramadan and Kwanzaa**.
2. Ask students to brainstorm examples for the Christmas column on the chart based on what they saw at the Roberson International Forest exhibition.
3. Ask students to share in pairs why there are many similarities between countries and cultures (For example, candles and lights for the darkest time of year, decorations from nature, natural foods... fruits and nuts, Santa Claus in different outfits). With younger students, you may decide to have a classroom discussion instead of having each pair share.
4. Learn more about these holidays: Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali and Ramadan by reading some of the books listed above in the materials section.
5. Complete the chart for these holidays noting the similarities and differences to the Christmas celebrations.
6. Divide the class into 4 groups and have each group create an artistic poster illustrating an aspect of the celebration for the holidays- Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali and Ramadan. Groups present their work to the class.

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