

ROBERSON MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

Pre-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

Objective: Students will understand that it is through our senses that we learn how other countries and cultures celebrate the winter holidays. They will gain exposure and in depth knowledge of how one community and culture celebrates a holiday.

Materials:

- chart paper
- map of the world
- picture of the flag of Italy
- DePaola, T. (1980). *The Legend of Old Befana*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Company.
- drawing paper, crayons, glue, tape, material scraps (such as paper or fabric), magazines

Procedure:

1. Begin by listing on the board the major winter holidays celebrated in the world that may be on display at Roberson Museum and Science Center: (for example: *Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan, Diwali, and Kwanzaa*). Solicit students' ideas to create this list.
 - a. Poll students on which holiday they celebrate
 - b. Create a class graph of how many students celebrate each holiday
2. Review with the students what the five senses are: (*sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell*).
 - a. Write each of the senses on a chart and then ask students to close their eyes and picture their house during the holidays. Ask students to tell you what the sights, sounds, tastes, smells, and textures (touch) of the holidays are at their house.
 - b. List their answers on the chart under the relevant sense.
 - c. Looking at the chart have them brainstorm why people celebrate in different ways.
 - d. Discuss how America is a melting pot and people come from different countries with different customs. If the word *custom* and *melting pot* is new to your students, have a conversation about what a custom means.
3. Prepare the students for their trip to the Roberson International Forest by telling them that they are going to learn a little about one of the exhibits they may see.
4. Christmas in Italy
 - a. Locate Italy on a world map and show them a picture of the Italian flag.

- b. Teach them the sound of Merry Christmas in Italy: “Buon Natale!”
 - c. Explain that one of the sights of Christmas in Italy is a witch! Read out loud the story of *La Befana* by Tomie de Paola.
5. Working in pairs, students create their own “La Befana” witch as a collage.
- a. Using crayons, magazines, and other materials, students draw the witch and add her costume of a shawl, scarf, apron, old broken shoes, eyeglasses, burlap sack, straw broom and coal.
 - b. Students share their collages when done.

Developed by: Ginny Schumacher

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