

# GOOGLE

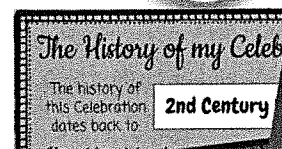


# Holidays

around the

# World!

TECHNOLOGY FUN!



# An INTERACTIVE Research and Google Drive Activity!

Made  
by



Holidays covered in following information pages:

\*Hanukkah

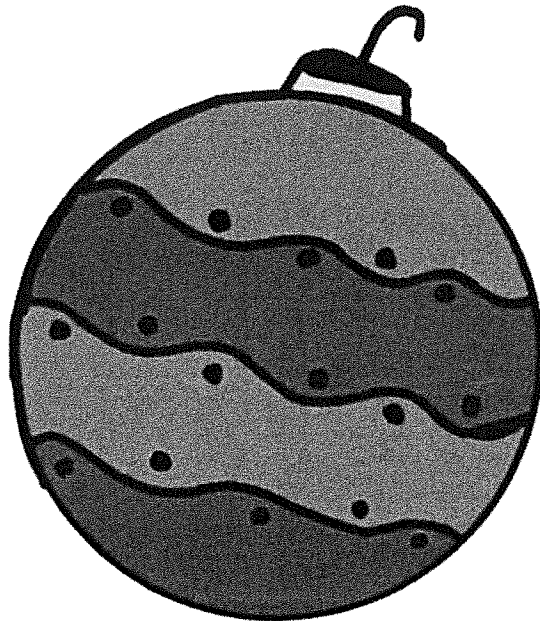
\*Diwali

\*Kwanzaa

\*St. Lucia's Day

\*Chinese New Year

\*La Posada



Kid Friendly Websites for further research:

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/holidays-sampler-around-world>

<http://www.whychristmas.com/customs/>

<http://www.kathimitchell.com/holidays.html>

<http://www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/>

# Christmas Celebrations Around the World!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of holiday: \_\_\_\_\_

Country/People who observe this holiday:

\_\_\_\_\_

When is this holiday observed?

\_\_\_\_\_

History of holiday

(Why do people celebrate this holiday? What special event is being remembered or honored?)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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# Special Holiday Traditions!

Special Food or Meals:

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Special Colors or Decorations:

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Special Tradition:

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Special Activity:

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Special Activity:

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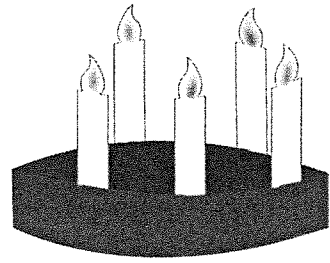
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# Comparing Celebrations!

Directions: Fill out the following chart with information about your own holiday traditions and the special celebration you are studying!

|                              | My<br>Holiday | New<br>Holiday |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Date it is<br>celebrated     |               |                |
| Where it is<br>celebrated    |               |                |
| History of<br>holiday        |               |                |
| Special food<br>that is made |               |                |
| Decorations/<br>Colors       |               |                |
| Favorite<br>Activities       |               |                |

# St. Lucia's Day



The country of Sweden celebrates St. Lucia's Day every December 13, which happens to mark the Winter Solstice, or the shortest day of the year. According to this legend, the country of Sweden was struck by a horrible famine in the year 300 AD. There wasn't enough food to go around, especially for the poor peasant and servant people. Just when most people were close to giving up all hope, a young girl appeared dressed in a white robe tied with a red sash. She brought food and clothes to the needy people. In order to keep her hands free to carry the trays of goodies, she wore a wreath of lit candles on her head. The people didn't know where this special girl came from, but they eventually honored her by making her a patron saint of light in appreciation for her kind and generous manner. To this day, on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the oldest Swedish girl in the family dresses all in white and wears a wreath made of twigs. She then delivers a breakfast treat of sweet buns with raisins to her family in remembrance of St. Lucia!

# Hanukkah



The holiday of Hanukkah is an old one that stems from ancient Jews living in Jerusalem during second century BC. During that time, Judea (or Israel) was ruled by a Syrian King who insisted that everyone worship the Greek Gods. The Jewish people did not like this as they felt very loyal to their God, Yahweh. As a result, a bitter war broke out among the rival groups. After 3 years, the Jews finally won and took back control of Judea and the right to worship their God. To celebrate, the Jewish people lit an oil lamp. Even though the lamp was very low on oil, it somehow burned for eight straight days! To honor this amazing event, Jews today celebrate the Eight Days of Hanukkah and call it the Festival of Lights. They light a special candle holder called a menorah. Today, Jewish people make special food (such as latke, a fried potato dish), play special dreidel games, and remember their loved ones by giving gifts for each of the 8 days the oil burned.

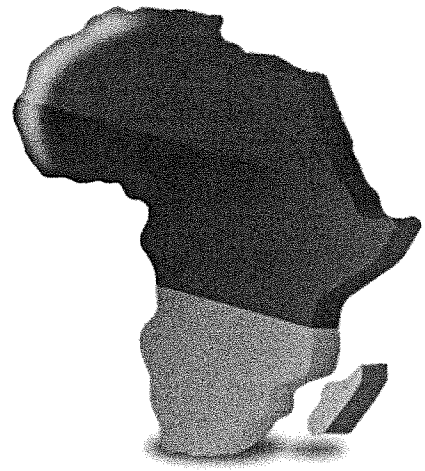
# La Posada



The celebration of La Posada is celebrated in Mexico from December 12<sup>th</sup> to January 6<sup>th</sup>. During this time, children take part in the tradition of Posada processions. To remember how Joseph and Mary had to search for a place to stay almost 2 thousand years ago, people in Mexico decorate their houses with evergreens and paper lanterns during the Posadas. Children stop and sing at each house and wait to be extended an invitation inside. Once a household invites them in, they celebrate by having a party with traditional food such as pork tamales and glazed ham. One game that the children in Mexico love to take part in is the annual pinata. It is a paper figure that is stuffed with candy and treats. The children take turns trying to break it open. When it finally opens, the children rush to pick up all of the goodies that pour out of it! Another tradition in Mexico is decorating with nativity scenes called a nacimiento. Finally, the houses and churches in Mexico are decorated with the brilliant red flowers called poinsettias.

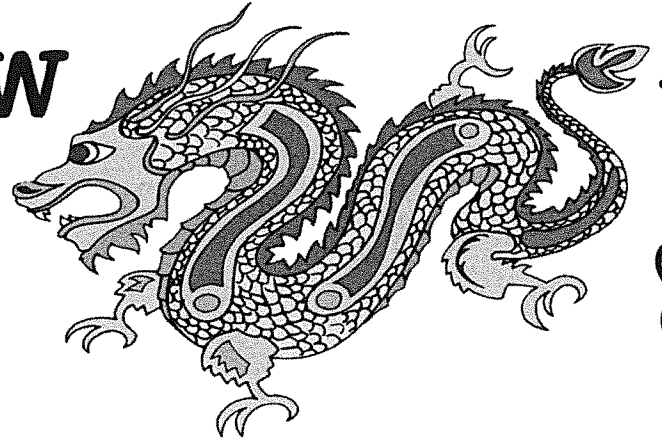


# Kwanzaa



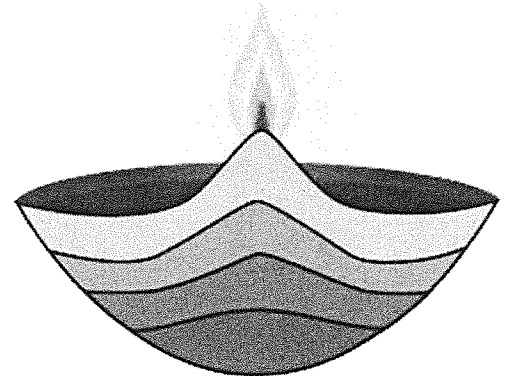
The celebration of Kwanzaa is celebrated in the African-American culture. It begins on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> and lasts for seven days. It is not a religious holiday, but a celebration that began in 1966 to honor tradition and help children better understand their culture and heritage. During the seven days, African Americans celebrate with food, music, dancing, and other creative activities. On the sixth day, there is a special feast and gifts are exchanged on day seven. The houses are decorated in red, black and green, the colors of Kwanzaa. Corn is a popular food to prepare and a game known as Kalah, a traditional African pastime, is encouraged. African Americans use this opportunity to reflect on their strong heritage and traditional values.

# Chinese New Year



The celebration of the Chinese New Year has been a tradition in China for over four thousand years! It celebrates the end of the winter season and the beginning of the new growing season. The Chinese people celebrate this holiday with their family and friends with food such as dumplings, fish and springrolls, dragon dances, lantern festivals, and firecrackers! The Chinese New Year is celebrated the first day of the lunar cycle, so it might occur on a different day each year. An interesting custom is the association with the Chinese zodiac calendar, which assigns a specific animal to the holiday for the year. Celebrations last for 15 days. During this time, Chinese children often receive "red envelopes", which contain a gift of money. Another exciting custom is the Dragon Dance Parade, where a cloth dragon held on poles is escorted down the street by parade goers who make the dragon "dance" by raising their poles up and down.

# Diwali



Diwali is celebrated in India and is part of the Hindu religion. It is the most important holiday of the year for the Indian culture and has been celebrated almost as long as India has existed! It is celebrated for 5 days in a row; starting in either October or November. The festival gets its name from the row of clay lamps the Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects their families from spiritual darkness. The festival marks the victory of good over evil. It stems from many stories in history but carries that common meaning. This special holiday is celebrated with clay lamps, festive fireworks, flowers, bonfires, and sharing of sweets and dishes made of traditional spices and curry.