

Cultural Celebration Around the World

GEOGRAPHY



Overview

Students research and present a cultural celebration or holiday from another country, developing cultural awareness and appreciation for global traditions.

Steps for Teachers

1. Brainstorm celebrations students are curious about
2. Students choose a celebration from a culture different from their own
3. Students research the celebration's history, traditions, food, and meaning
4. Students write a script explaining the celebration to someone unfamiliar with it
5. Students create characters and scenes showing the celebration
6. Students record their presentation with respect and enthusiasm
7. Create a class calendar marking celebrations from around the world

Example

A student presents Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. Character in colorful clothing: 'Namaste! Let me tell you about Diwali, one of the most important celebrations in India. It's the festival of lights—we light thousands of small lamps called diyas to celebrate the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Families clean their homes, wear new clothes, and share sweets. Watch the beautiful fireworks! The best part is rangoli—we make colorful designs on the floor using powder and flowers.'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Cultural Accuracy	Thoroughly researched with accurate details	Mostly accurate with minor errors	Contains cultural inaccuracies or misconceptions
Respectful Presentation	Presents culture with genuine respect and appreciation	Generally respectful tone	Contains stereotypes or disrespectful elements
Meaning & Significance	Clearly explains why this celebration matters to people	Mentions the celebration's importance	Focuses only on surface details
Engaging Details	Includes food, music, clothing, and traditions vividly	Includes several cultural details	Lacks specific cultural details