

ADVENT

Four weeks before Christmas Day, the Season of Advent begins. Advent is celebrated by most Christian communities and churches. It is a time for people to prepare for the coming of the baby Jesus and Christmas. Additionally, they prepare for the second coming of Jesus when they believe that he will rule over all the Earth in peace.

There are many traditions associated with Advent, such as:

- Advent Calendars - These are special calendars used to countdown the days of Advent in anticipation of Christmas. The most common ones are made of paper with 24 or 25 little windows. A window is opened each day in the month of December, and a Christmas picture is revealed underneath each window (many windows may even have special surprises for children to find).
- The Advent wreath - It is an evergreen wreath with four candles (three purple candles and one rose candle). On every advent Sunday, one candle is lit. On the 4th Sunday all 4 candles are burning, which is a symbol for Jesus. It symbolizes the birth and light of Jesus.

Advent is a special time that reminds people to reflect on the past with joy and to await the future with hope.

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Mon
Dec
13
in-class

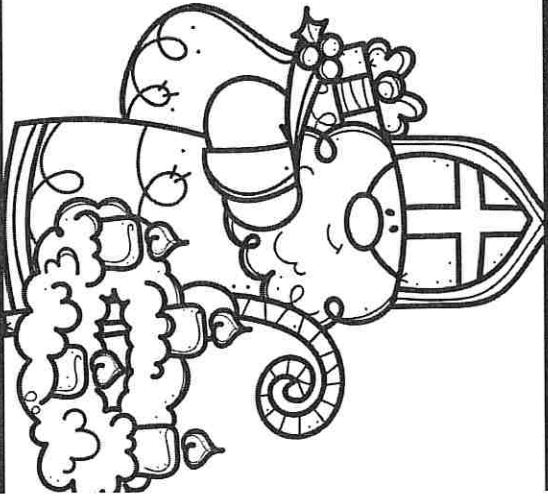
READ THE STORY 2 TIMES AND MARK ANY IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU READ.

WHERE?

Where is this holiday celebrated?

WHEN?

Date the holiday is celebrated.



FACTS ABOUT THE HOLIDAY

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WHAT IS ADVENT?

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ADVENT READING COMPREHENSION

READ THE PASSAGE TWO TIMES BEFORE RESPONDING BELOW. MAKE SURE TO PROVE WHERE YOU FOUND YOUR ANSWER.

COMPARE: HOW IS THIS HOLIDAY SIMILAR & DIFFERENT FROM YOUR CELEBRATIONS?

SIMILAR	DIFFERENT

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite thing about this holiday celebration?

2. What would it be like for you to celebrate Advent?

WHAT CONNECTION CAN YOU MAKE WITH THIS HOLIDAY? (TEXT-TO-TEXT, SELF, WORLD)

MAKING CONNECTIONS

ST. LUCIA

During Christmas time in Sweden, one of the biggest celebrations is St. Lucia's Day, celebrated on December 13th. It is a celebration of hospitality. St. Lucia's Day teaches us the values of sharing and caring for one another. The celebration comes from the legends that were told by the monks who first brought Christianity to Sweden. The Winter Solstice and the Pagan Festival of Lights were changed to St. Lucia's Day.

St. Lucia was a young Christian girl who was killed because of her faith. The legend says that St. Lucia would secretly bring food to the persecuted Christians in Rome. She would wear candles on her head to guide her so that both of her hands would be free to carry things.

St. Lucia's Day is now celebrated with children dressing up as St. Lucia. The girls would wear white dresses with red sashes around their waists and a crown of candles on their heads. The boys would dress up as "Stjärngossar" (star boys). They wear tall, pointy hats, like white wizard hats, decorated with silver stars. St Lucia's Day first became widely celebrated in Sweden in the late 1700s. It is now also widely celebrated in Denmark, Norway, Finland, Bosnia, and Croatia.

Mon
Dec
13 HW

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

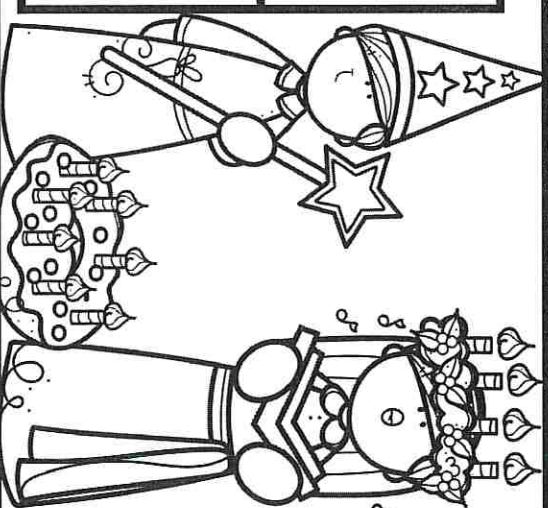
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WHERE?

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WHEN?

Date the holiday is celebrated.



FACTS ABOUT THE HOLIDAY

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ST. LUCIA READING COMPREHENSION

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COMPARE: HOW IS THIS HOLIDAY SIMILAR & DIFFERENT FROM YOUR CELEBRATIONS?

SIMILAR	DIFFERENT

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite thing about this holiday celebration?
2. What would it be like for you to celebrate St. Lucia?

WHAT CONNECTION CAN YOU MAKE WITH THIS HOLIDAY? (TEXT-TO-TEXT, SELF, WORLD)

MAKING CONNECTIONS

RAMADAN

The Muslim holiday of Ramadan is a holy month of prayers, fasting, readings of the Qur'an, and reflections on the community. During this month, Muslims often do kind acts of charity. The dates of Ramadan vary every year because Islam uses the lunar calendar (based on the moon).

Ramadan is celebrated on the ninth month of the lunar calendar. Muslims celebrate the Qur'an (the Muslim holy book). They celebrate when the Qur'an was first revealed to the prophet Muhammad.

During this month, from dawn until dusk, people fast meaning they refrain from drinking and eating. They do this so that they get closer to their God, to develop self-discipline, and to increase awareness and empathy for the less fortunate.

Families will eat a pre-dawn meal called a "suhoor," and then, each day after sunset, they break their fast with a meal known as "iftar," often sharing this meal with family and friends.

Another hallmark of Ramadan is their nightly prayers at the mosque. More time is spent at the mosque during this month than any other time of the year. On the 27th day of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate Laylat al Qadr. This is Islam's holiest night and commemorates the day the Qur'an was revealed to the prophet Muhammad. To mark the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate the Eid al-Fitr festival. Many Muslims don their best attire to celebrate their first daylight meal in a month. They give thanks to Allah for giving them strength and self-control. During this time, they exchange gifts. Children receive gifts such as new clothes, toys, and money.

Tues
Dec
14 AM

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

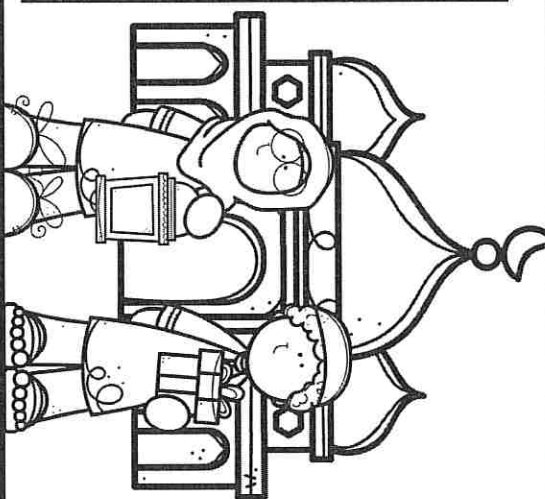
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WHEN?

Date the holiday is celebrated.

WHAT?

What marks the end of Ramadan?



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WHAT IS RAMADAN?

RAMADAN READING COMPREHENSION

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COMPARE: HOW IS THIS HOLIDAY SIMILAR & DIFFERENT FROM YOUR CELEBRATIONS?

SIMILAR	DIFFERENT

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite thing about this holiday celebration?
2. What would it be like for you to celebrate Ramadan?

WHAT CONNECTION CAN YOU MAKE WITH THIS HOLIDAY? (TEXT-TO-TEXT, SELF, WORLD)

MAKING CONNECTIONS

KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday that is celebrated each year mainly in the United States from December 26th to January 1st. In the African-American culture, Kwanzaa is a holiday that honors tradition and deepens children's understanding of their heritage. This celebration was founded in 1966. The word "Kwanzaa" comes from the Swahili language and means "first fruits." Each day of the seven days is dedicated to one of "The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa," which are:

- Umoja: unity
- Kujichagulia: self determination
- Ujima: collective work and responsibility
- Ujamaa: cooperative economics
- Nia: purpose
- Kuumba: creativity
- Imani: faith

A central symbol of Kwanzaa is the kinara, a candelabra that holds one black, three red, and three green candles. A candle is lit each day on this special candlestick. Families decorate their homes with traditional African crafts. Families decorate their homes with traditional African crafts that are in the colors of red, green, and black; representing the African flag. Gifts, known as "Zawadi", are given on the last day of Kwanzaa.

Wed
Dec
15 HW

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

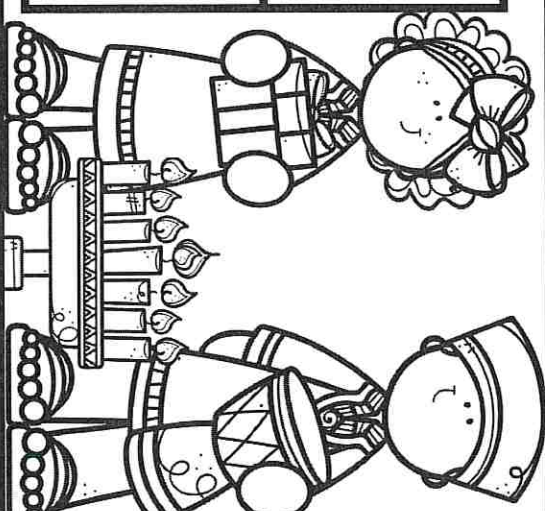
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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite thing about this holiday celebration?

2. What would it be like for you to celebrate Kwanzaa?

WHAT CONNECTION CAN YOU MAKE WITH THIS HOLIDAY? (TEXT-TO-TEXT, SELF, WORLD)

MAKING CONNECTIONS

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year has been celebrated for many centuries. It came about from ancient celebrations to mark the end of a long winter season and the beginning of spring. It is also known as the Lunar New Year or Spring Festival. During this celebration, traditional ceremonies are held where people gather together and welcome in the new year. It is celebrated between January 21st and February 20th in many countries around the world including China, South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and within many Chinese communities around the world.

Each year a Chinese zodiac animal is selected as being the symbol of the year. The Chinese zodiac calendar has a 12-year cycle. The calendar was started using astronomical observations from the moon's phases. The 12 Chinese zodiac animals are: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragons, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig.

The Spring Festival typically lasts 15 days. The celebrations often include a dragon or a lion dance, along with gift exchanges and fireworks. Red is the main color of their decorations because it symbolizes joy and happiness. Red envelopes containing an even amount of money are handed out to friends and families to symbolize good luck and prosperity. During this celebration, to bring good fortune, people eat certain foods such as fish and long noodles.

The 15th day of the Chinese New Year is also known as the Festival of Lanterns, and it marks the end of the celebrations. Families will typically gather on this last day to bring the celebration to a close.

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

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Dec
15 in-class

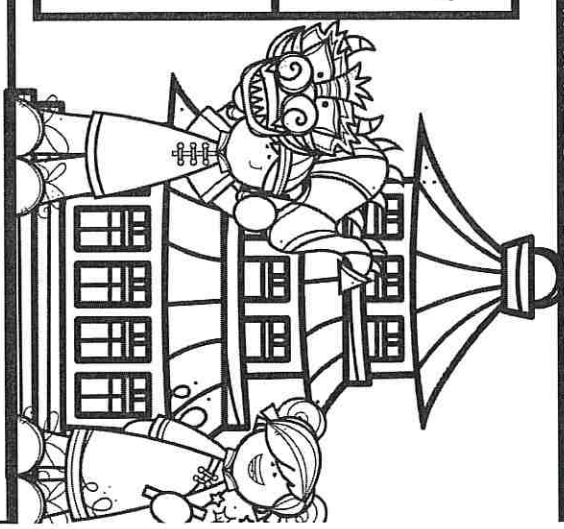
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CHINESE NEW YEAR READING COMPREHENSION

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COMPARE: HOW IS THIS HOLIDAY SIMILAR & DIFFERENT FROM YOUR CELEBRATIONS?

SIMILAR	DIFFERENT

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite thing about this holiday celebration?

2. What would it be like for you to celebrate Chinese New Year?

WHAT CONNECTION CAN YOU MAKE WITH THIS HOLIDAY? (TEXT-TO-TEXT, SELF, WORLD)

MAKING
CONNECTIONS