

Lesson 8: Customs and Holidays

Getting Started

✿ Questions to Explore

- What roles do community members play?
- How are communities around the world similar and different?

📖 Facts and Definitions

- On Memorial Day we remember and honor people who have died to serve and protect our country.
- On the Fourth of July we celebrate America's birthday, the day America became a country.

🕒 Skills

- Recognize and describe religious and secular symbols/celebrations associated with special days of diverse cultures (SS)
- Explore and cite reasons for observing special days that recognize celebrated individuals of diverse cultures around the world (SS)
- Recognize and describe the historical events associated with national holidays (SS)
- Trace the historical foundations of traditions in various neighborhoods and communities (SS)
- Use correct capitalization for proper nouns and at the beginning of sentences (LA)

✂ Materials

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • books about holidays | • picture of the American flag |
| • colored pencils or markers | • scissors |
| • construction paper (kit) | • stapler |
| • glue | • world map (kit) |

Introduction

Ask your child to name all of the holidays that he knows and to explain why they are each celebrated. Tell him that in America, we celebrate special holidays because of things that happened in our country. Then explain that people in other parts of the world celebrate their own special holidays.

Activities

Activity 1: Patriotic Holidays

Tell your child that the Fourth of July and Memorial Day are special holidays that are celebrated only in America:

- On **Memorial Day** we remember and honor people who lived in the past and fought and died to serve and protect our country.
- The **Fourth of July** is also called Independence Day. This is like a birthday party for America. This holiday helps us remember the day that America became its own country.

Ask your child what your family does to celebrate each of these holidays. In the boxes provided on the sheet "Patriotic Holidays," ask him to draw a symbol to represent the holiday. Explain to him that a symbol is a simple drawing that helps to show the importance of something.

Show your child the page, "The American Flag." Also show her a colored picture of the flag and ask her to color the flag on the activity page using the correct colors. Explain to her that red, white, and blue are the colors of America. Help her count by fives as she pastes the stars onto the flag. Let your child cut the flag out and glue it on a piece of red or blue construction paper. On the top of the sheet, ask her to write *AMERICA*.

Activity 2: Holiday Book

On the "Holiday Book" pages, your child will write the names and dates of holidays celebrated in America. Discuss the significance of each holiday. Discuss how your family celebrates the holiday. If your family celebrates the religious aspects of Easter and Christmas (or Hanukkah) read texts from the Bible or a children's books that talk about the holiday. If not, discuss the secular celebrations of the holidays of Easter and Christmas. (There are both religious and secular versions of the Christmas and Easter cards.) If your family does not celebrate these holidays, explain why you do not and why others do. Blank cards are available for holidays your family celebrates that aren't already listed.

Choose which option your child should complete. When he has completed filling out the pages, ask him to cut out the pages and staple them together to make a book of the holidays he celebrates. Ask him to cut out and decorate a piece of construction paper for the title page. He can give the book a title and list his name as the author. When the pages are together, he can record the page number of each page in the lower right-hand corner.

Option 1

On the "Holiday Book" (Option 1) sheets, your child will see a symbol in each box. Ask him to write the name of the holiday, find the date on a calendar and write it, and write sentences about why the holiday is celebrated and what your family does to celebrate the holiday. Explain that all holidays and months of the year start with capital letters.

Option 2 (advanced)

Option 2 is more challenging because the holiday pages do not contain sentence prompts. On the sheets called "Holiday Book" (Option 2), your child will see a symbol in each box. Ask him to write the name and date of the holiday, and write sentences about why the holiday is celebrated and what your family does to celebrate it. Explain to your child that all holidays and months of the year start with capital letters.

Note: To make this activity more challenging, your child can make his own holiday with his own illustrations.

Activity 3: Let's Celebrate

Ask your child act-out different traditions or rituals associated with holidays. She can select one holiday at a time to celebrate. Encourage her not to use words, only actions. If you are not able to guess the holiday after a few minutes, let her add words, but tell her to name the holiday. Then try to guess which holiday she is pretending to celebrate. Continue with two or three other holidays.

Activity 4: Holidays in Other Communities around the World

For each of the holidays listed below, locate the countries on the world map. On the "Holidays in Other Communities" sheet, color and label the country and write the name and date of the holiday beneath the country. Read more about these holidays on the Internet.

Cinco de Mayo — Mexico: Cinco de Mayo (May 5th) honors the 1862 victory by Mexican forces, including ordinary citizens, over French soldiers. The battle, known as The Battle of Puebla, took place on May 5th. It is a day marked by many Mexicans and those with Mexican ties as an important cultural event.

Canada Day — Canada: Canada's national holiday is called Canada Day. It is on July 1st. This is the day Canada celebrates the creation of the dominion of Canada.

Chinese New Year — China: Chinese New Year is the most important holiday celebrated among Chinese people. It is celebrated for three to five days. The holiday falls on a different day every year (sometime between Jan 20 and Feb. 19) and starts with a new moon. The Chinese exchange gifts during this time of year and eat special foods.

Wrapping Up

Ask your child to name the different American holidays and talk about why each holiday is celebrated in our culture.



PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS

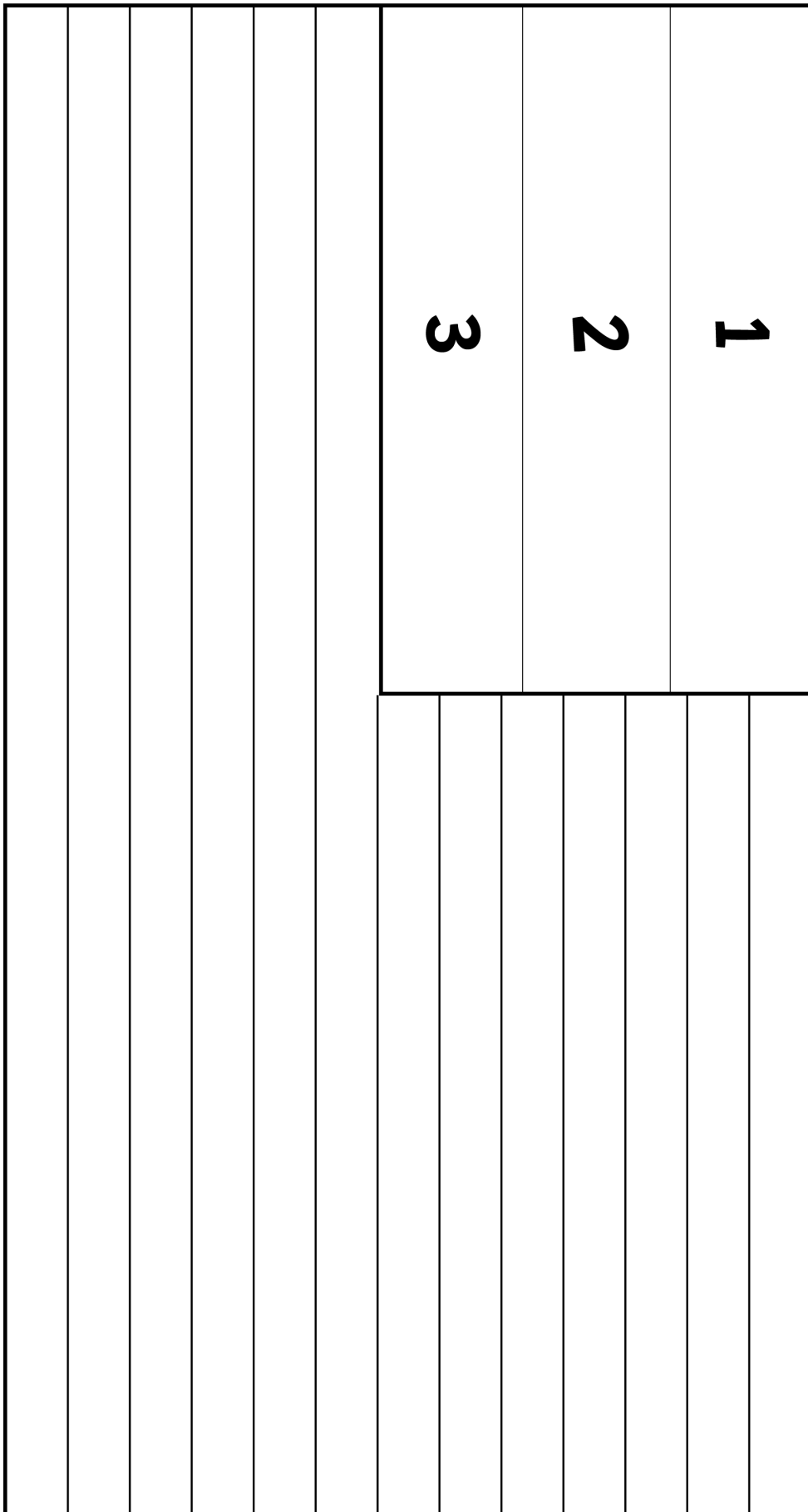
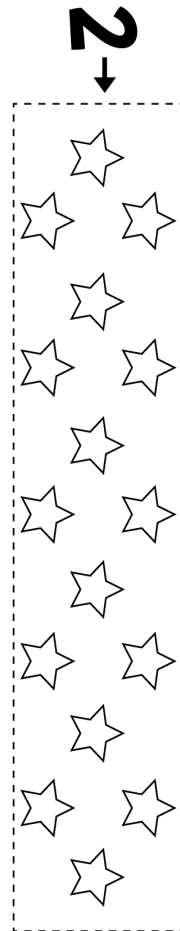


Directions: Draw a symbol for each holiday. Write a sentence about what you do on each holiday.

Memorial Day

Fourth of July

Directions: Cut out each set of stars and glue them onto the flag according to their number. Color the flag correctly.

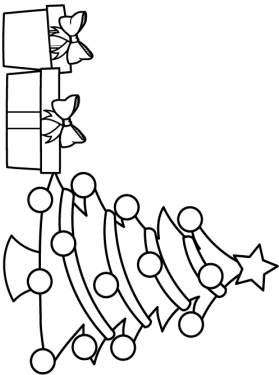


Holiday Book

Directions: Write the name and date of each holiday illustrated. Complete each sentence, cut out the pages, and put them together to make a book.

Holiday:

Date:

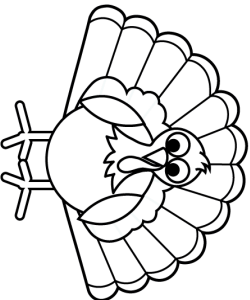


We celebrate this holiday because _____

On this day, our family _____

Holiday:

Date:



We celebrate this holiday because _____

On this day, our family _____

Holiday:

Date:

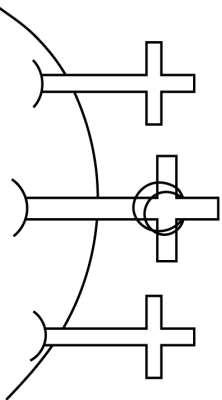


We celebrate this holiday because _____

On this day, our family _____

Holiday:

Date:

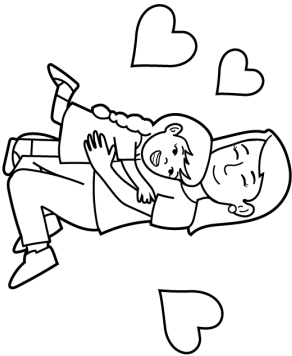


We celebrate this holiday because _____

On this day, our family _____

Holiday:

Date:

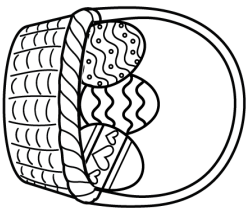


We celebrate this holiday because _____

On this day, our family _____

Holiday:

Date:

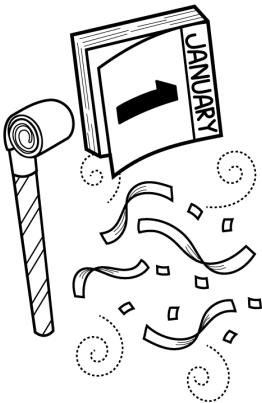


We celebrate this holiday because _____

On this day, our family _____

Holiday:

Date:

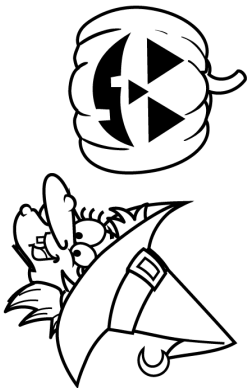


We celebrate this holiday because _____

On this day, our family _____

Holiday:

Date:



We celebrate this holiday because _____

On this day, our family _____

Holiday:

Date:

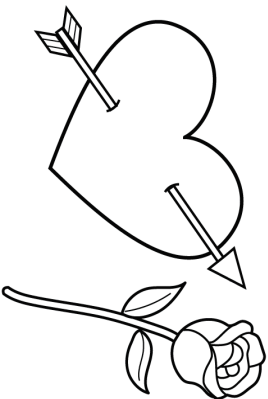


We celebrate this holiday because _____

On this day, our family _____

Holiday:

Date:

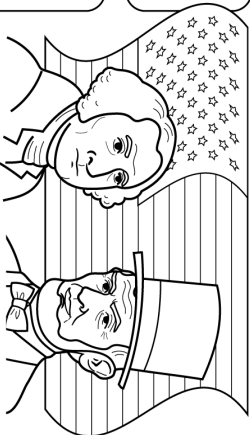


We celebrate this holiday because _____

On this day, our family _____

Holiday:

Date:



We celebrate this holiday because _____

On this day, our family _____

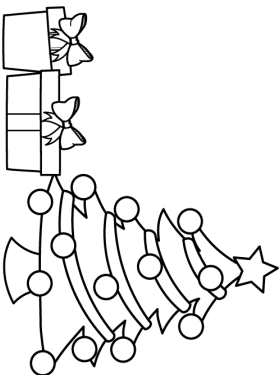
Holiday: Date: We celebrate this holiday because On this day, our family	Holiday: Date: We celebrate this holiday because On this day, our family
Holiday: Date: We celebrate this holiday because On this day, our family	Holiday: Date: We celebrate this holiday because On this day, our family

Holiday Book

Directions: Write the name and date of each holiday illustrated. Write sentences about why the holiday is celebrated and what your family does to celebrate it.

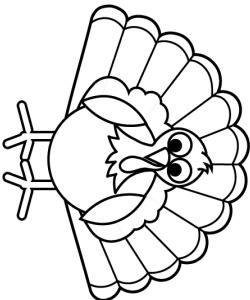
Holiday:

Date:



Holiday:

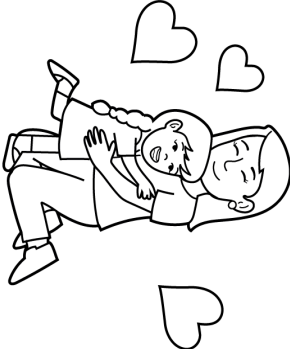
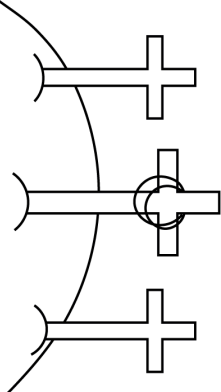
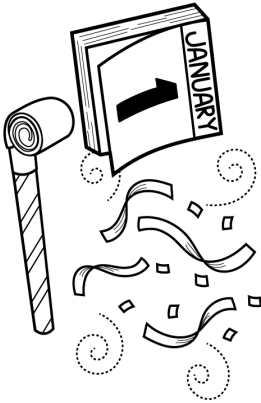
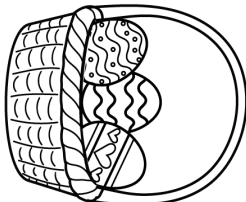
Date:



Holiday:

Date:



Holiday: Date: 	Holiday: Date: 
Holiday: Date: 	Holiday: Date: 

© Copyright 2025 Epiphany Curriculum, LLC.
Do not copy or distribute without written permission.

Holiday: Date:	Holiday: Date:
Holiday: Date:	Holiday: Date:

Holidays In Other Communities

Directions: Color each map and label the country. Write the holiday and date. Choose your favorite holiday for The United States.

Holidays:

Canada Day

Cinco de Mayo

Chinese New Year

Country: _____



Holiday: _____

Date: _____

Country: _____



Holiday: _____

Date: _____

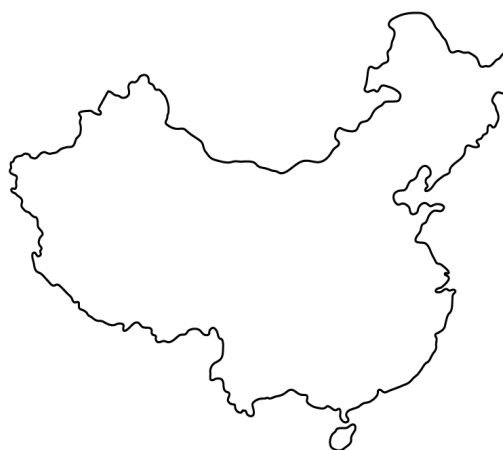
Country: _____



Holiday: _____

Date: _____

Country: _____



Holiday: _____

Date: _____