

Activity 16



BAKE A MERRY CHRISTMAS



STUDY QUESTION:

Where do our holiday foods come from?

THE ACTIVITY:

Students describe family traditions and foods served at Christmas time.

CURRICULUM FIT:

DIVISION ONE - LANGUAGE ARTS

- Demonstrate growth in vocabulary
- Demonstrate growth in oral language by using more complex language structures
- Speak fluently about familiar subjects
- Demonstrate ability to alphabetize to first letter

DIVISION ONE - SCIENCE

- Living things and the Environment

DIVISION ONE - SOCIAL STUDIES

- Cultural Foods

AGRICULTURE CONCEPTS: Diversity

PURPOSE:

To compare family food traditions at Christmas. (Not all families celebrate Christmas, so this will add a multicultural element to the lesson.)

To learn that many of the foods that are part of our holiday tradition come from around the world.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

Magazines
World map, thick yarn
Student resource sheets, included in this activity

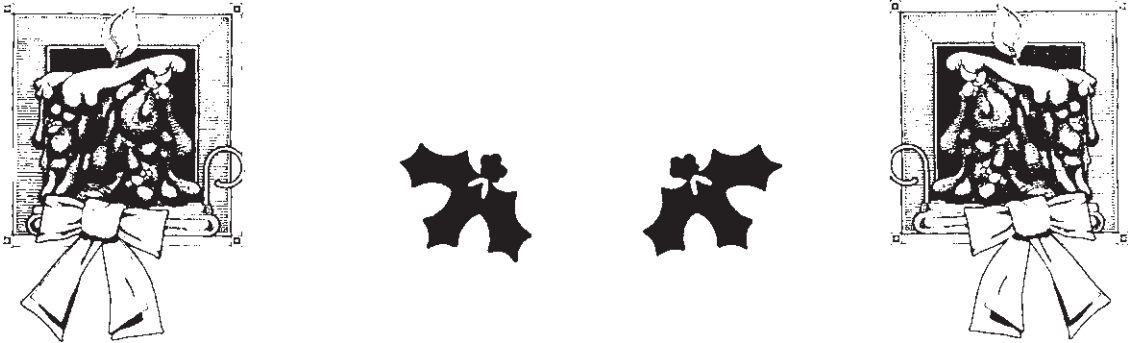
TIME REQUIRED:

Two or three class periods.



BACKGROUND -- For the Teacher

Holidays are a time for families to share traditions, customs, and special foods. Not all families celebrate Christmas, so all students must have an opportunity to relate their traditions and special foods to promote tolerance and understanding for all.



PROCEDURE

Part 1

Preparation

1. Get Cranberry Christmas, or another book which illustrates a Christmas tradition.
2. Order seeds - e.g. oats, wheat, barley, etc. from:

Alberta Wheat Pool
505 - 2nd St. S.W.
Box 2700
Calgary, AB T2P 2P5

3. Photocopy student resource sheets.

Part 2

Introduction

4. Read Cranberry Christmas by Wende and Harry Devlin to introduce an example of a Christmas tradition.
5. Discuss other family traditions that children are familiar with.
6. Have “sharing circle” where each student relates their holiday feast.

Part 3

Activity

7. Brainstorm words that describe Christmas and enter on word chart.
8. Brainstorm list of special foods eaten at Christmas. (It is best if each student names a different food.) Each student then writes the name of this food on an index card or brightly colored construction paper. Discuss with students where each of the foods might come from and place it on the world map on its country of origin. Connect foods to Alberta with brightly colored yarn.

9. Ask each child to interview a senior member of their family and request their favorite festive recipe.

10. Compile recipes. Make and laminate one copy of this cookbook for each student to give to their parents as a Christmas gift.

Part 4

Conclusion

11. Wrap cookbooks. Decorate with Candy Cane Reindeer and a Reindeer Gift Tag.

12. Prepare teacher's favorite Christmas treat e.g. gingerbread men.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite family tradition at Christmas time?
2. Many people eat special foods on Christmas eve. What are your family's special foods?
3. What foods do you only eat at Christmas and not during the rest of the year?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Students draw and color or cut out magazine pictures and name plants and flowers they see at Christmas time.
2. Make a "Mouse-in-a-Bed" ornament as a gift to the family Christmas tree.
3. Print Christmas words in alphabetical order.
4. Have each student decorate a Christmas tree for winter birds using Alberta seeds (seeds available from Alberta Wheat Pool).

STUDENT RESOURCE

FAMILY FAVORITE



My name is _____

I grew up in _____

My favorite food at Christmas is _____

My family's favorite food at Christmas is _____

RECIPE NAME: _____

Ingredients:

Method:

STUDENT RESOURCE

MY CHRISTMAS TREE FOR BIRDS



SEEDS I USED ARE:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

STUDENT RESOURCE

CHRISTMAS WORDS



Print the Christmas words in alphabetical order. You will **NOT** use all the letters in the alphabet.

candy

lights

fireplace

reindeer

jingle

Dancer

present

bell

nuts

turkey

elf

oranges

stuffing

holly

wreath

STUDENT RESOURCE

CHRISTMAS WORDS

answer sheet



Print the Christmas words in alphabetical order. You will NOT use all the letters in the alphabet.

candy

lights

fireplace

reindeer

jingle

Dancer

present

bell

nuts

turkey

elf

oranges

stuffing

holly

wreath

bell

candy

Dancer

elf

fireplace

holly

jingle

lights

nuts

oranges

present

reindeer

stuffing

turkey

wreath

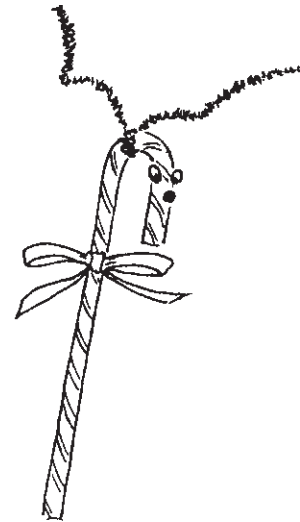
STUDENT RESOURCE

CRAFTS



CANDY CANE REINDEER

Twist a long colored pipe cleaner around the top of a candy cane. Bend ends into the shape of funny antlers. Glue on a little pom-pom nose and 2 roly eyes. Tie a fancy bow around the neck.



MOUSE-IN-A-BED ORNAMENT

With a marker draw a mouse face on a hazelnut. Cut mouse ears from colored felt and glue them to each side of the hazelnut head. Glue a loop of thread inside a half walnut shell. Glue a piece of elastic band at pointed end of walnut shell for mouse tail. Glue hazelnut head to other end of walnut shell. Dab glue around inside edge of walnut. Poke little piece of fabric into shell to cover up mouse. Hang on your tree with a loop of thread.



REINDEER GIFT TAG

Cut a small diamond of construction paper. Fold in half to make a triangle. Cut 2 holly-shaped antlers from green paper and glue to top of triangle head along fold. Draw 2 eyes with a marker and glue on a tiny red pom-pom nose.

