

CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

Lesson Plan

Creating Cards

Lesson Plan for *Christmas*
Grade 3

Objective

To help students answer questions about key details of a text, and incorporate that information into a craft.

Things Needed

- *Christmas* book
- Whiteboard
- Paper and/or cardstock
- Pencils
- Colored pencils, crayons, and/or markers

Before the Activity

Fold a sheet of paper in half to form a card for each student. Read the *Christmas* book out loud as a class.

Activity

The *Christmas* book describes the history of the holiday. Although Christmas began as a religious holiday, the way it is celebrated has changed over time. Now, the holiday includes many different symbols and traditions. Ask the following questions to help students review some of these symbols and traditions and write their answers on the whiteboard:

- What Christmas symbols are based on winter solstice celebrations? (Answer: decorations such as lights and wreaths)
- What Christmas tradition began in Germany in the 1500s? (Answer: People brought evergreen trees into their homes. These became known as Christmas trees.)
- What Christmas tradition began in the Philippines? (Answer: star-shaped lanterns called paróls)



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- What decoration do people often put on top of Christmas trees? (Answer: a star)
- How do some people decorate Christmas trees in Argentina? (Answer: They use cotton balls to look like snow.)
- What colors are often associated with Christmas? (Answer: red and green)

Then, turn to page 8 and have students read the image caption on that page. People often send Christmas cards to family and friends. Invite students to make their own card for someone they love. Students can choose one of the symbols written on the board, or they can come up with a symbol of their own. Once the students are done drawing, they can write a message to a loved one inside the card. Then, they can give the card to that person.

Evaluation

Could students answer the questions about Christmas symbols and traditions? Did they include at least one symbol on their card?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.1).

