



Conversation Curriculum

Holidays

Learning Objective: Students will be able to articulate what they celebrate, how they do so, and why it's important to them

Before class: *Review lesson plan and packet content. Make copies as necessary.*

Materials Needed: 'Holiday' picture cards, 1 Mini white board

- Lay out the sets of holiday picture cards (for 'Warm-up' activity)
 - Write questions for 'They do': Who? What? When? Where? How? Why?
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15 minutes

Warm-up Activity: *Let students separate photos into 2 piles: holidays they celebrate, and holidays they either don't celebrate or don't know*

- Finished students: Share with someone sitting next to them which holidays they placed in the 'celebrate' category and ones they placed in the other
- If there is any confusion about what holiday is represented in a picture, have another student explain before offering an explanation.
- If students don't celebrate any of the holidays pictured, ask them what holidays they do celebrate and have them talk about how they celebrate it.

**The purpose is for students to discuss their experiences and perceptions, not for the volunteer to provide a lecture on American Holidays*

10 minutes

I do/We do activity: *Lay out a set of the holiday cards in the center and ask students to name what holiday is represented and what time of the year it's celebrated.*

- Let students describe holidays that are familiar to them and what people do to celebrate
- Ask students to think of their favorite holiday
- Display the mini white board with the 5W's/1H questions and then share your favorite holiday (keep the story short and simple).
- Ask students the questions about your story (e.g. What is my favorite holiday?' 'When is it?' 'Where does it take place?' 'Who celebrates this holiday?' 'How is it celebrated?' and 'Why is this holiday your favorite?')
- Have a student talk about his/her favorite holiday. Students and teacher answer the questions about it.

20 minutes

They do activity: *Students pair up, pairing lower level students with higher level students, preferably in cross-cultural pairs.*

- Students take turns describing a favorite holiday. Partners will use the questions as a guide to prompt for more information.
- Once both students have shared with each other, each student will tell the class about their partners' favorite holidays and how they like to celebrate it.
- Explain the word 'tradition' – something we do every year during a holiday.
- Let students switch partners and have them discuss their favorite holiday tradition, using the questions as a guide. Repeat group sharing.

10 – 15 minutes

Journal Writing: *Students will write in their dialog journals about one of the four options:*

- Respond to the teacher's response (continue the 'dialog' from the last entry)
- Introduce yourself to the teacher (for students new to the group)
- What is your favorite holiday tradition? What do people do? Why does this tradition exist? Who celebrates this tradition?
- Free write about a topic of the student's choice

May 1 to May 5







Celebration



Holiday



Ramadan



Hanukkah



Kwanzaa

