





# Sample Unit Outline & Lesson Plans for Easy Planning

## Unit Preparation

### Pages to Copy:

- Holiday Info Pages: Each holiday has a one-page information page to help your students get started with their research. The page includes a brief overview of the holiday and labeled clip art images depicting important parts of the holiday.
- Holiday Cards: These will be put in a basket and drawn out by the students to assign each pair of students a holiday.
- Parent Letter: This letter will be sent home on the first day of the unit. It will inform parents on the unit. It will also inform them about the Holiday Fair.
- Holidays Around the World Fair Invitation: This is an invitation that will be sent home with students at the end of the unit to invite their parents to the Holiday Fair.
- Using the Internet for Research Worksheet: To be used with the Using the Internet for Research Mini Lesson.
- Finding Credible & Reliable Sources Worksheet: To be used with the Finding Credible & Reliable Sources and Citing the Source Mini Lesson.
- Winter Holidays Around the World Research Journal: Each student will need a copy of this journal. There is a half-page option that will need to be cut and stapled in order, or a full-page option that will need to be stapled in order.

### Websites for Research:

- It is encouraged that you have students use kid-friendly search engines, such as [kidrex.org](http://kidrex.org) or [kiddle.co](http://kiddle.co).
- Websites for research are included in this file if you'd like to provide your students with the sources rather than having them research with a search engine. Each holiday has six website sources. It works best to provide them to your students via a class blog/website so they can click and go.

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## Sample Unit Outline

Here is a sample unit calendar that you can use as a guide during the unit. Your unit may differ depending on your own schedule and which journal version you choose to use. Have students focus on 1-2 questions per day in their journals as you see fit.

M	T	W	Th	F
Assign partners Draw holiday Send parent letter	Using the Internet for Research Lesson	Finding Credible & Reliable Sources Online and Citing the Source Lesson	Students put together journals Catch up	What do I already know about the holiday?
Who celebrates the holiday? When is the holiday celebrated?	How did the holiday begin?	What are some important details about the holiday?	What are some important traditions during the holiday?	What are some foods enjoyed during the holiday?
What kind of decorations are used during the holiday?	What are some important symbols used during the holiday?	How is the holiday different from other holidays? The same?	Some interesting facts about the holiday are...	My favorite thing about the holiday is... Send home parent invite
Finish journals Report work day	Report work day	Work on decoration	Finish up decoration and report	Present to class Holidays Around the World Fair

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The unit sample outline gives you an idea of how you could implement the unit into your schedule. (However, feel free to implement the activities however you see fit!) We have included lesson plans to prep your students for their research projects.



# Parent Letter and Invitation to Keep Parents Involved and Informed

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

You are invited to our Holidays Around the World Fair! Students will be showcasing their own holiday decorations created using their research. Information is below!

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Details:** \_\_\_\_\_



**We Hope  
to See You  
There!**


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**Dear Parent/Guardian,**

We are starting a new research unit about the winter holidays around the world. Students will begin researching an assigned holiday using the internet. Your child's holiday is \_\_\_\_\_.

After students have finished their research, they will create a decoration that represents their holiday. Students will be creating their decoration in class with their partner. If there are any supplies that they would like to bring from home to use for their decoration, please send these in by \_\_\_\_\_. The decorations will be on display at our Holidays Around the World Fair on \_\_\_\_\_.

Please let me know if you have any questions!



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We have included a letter to parents and a Holidays Around the World Fair invitation to help keep your students' parents and guardians involved and informed. You can type the dates and your name right into the letter.



# Differentiated Student Worksheets to Teach Each Element of the Research Project

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Using the Table of Contents and Index

Fill in the information about the Table of Contents and the Index in the boxes below.

The Table of Contents is found at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the book.

It is used to \_\_\_\_\_

The Index is found at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the book.

It is used to \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Using the Table of Contents and Index

Fill in the information about the Table of Contents and the Index in the boxes below.

The Table of Contents is found at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the book.

The Table of Contents is \_\_\_\_\_ long.

\_\_\_\_\_ is found at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the book.

\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_

## Using the Table of Contents & Index

The table of contents and index are both tools that you will find in informational text. Write each criteria below where it belongs in the Venn Diagram.

at the beginning of the book  
and at the end of the book  
helps you find information  
1-2 pages long  
lots of pages  
pages and where they can be found  
in the order found in the book  
listed in alphabetical order  
broad topics  
specific topics

## Informational Text Features

Understanding the text features found in informational text is crucial to find the information you'll need about each holiday. Write the definition for each text feature below. You will use this as a reference while you're doing your research.

Table of Contents: \_\_\_\_\_

Index: \_\_\_\_\_

Glossary: \_\_\_\_\_

Titles: \_\_\_\_\_

Headings: \_\_\_\_\_

Photos: \_\_\_\_\_

Captions: \_\_\_\_\_

Graphs/Charts: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Print: \_\_\_\_\_

## Using the Internet for Research

Practice coming up with keywords for the following research questions. Remember: be specific! Think about what it is you'd want to know if you were researching.

1. What is the state of Florida like?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are tornados?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What are the planets in the solar system like?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Where are the world's ecosystems?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Differentiated student worksheets are included for each mini lesson. We have created these worksheets to help your students of all ages learn each element of a research project in a simple easy to understand way.



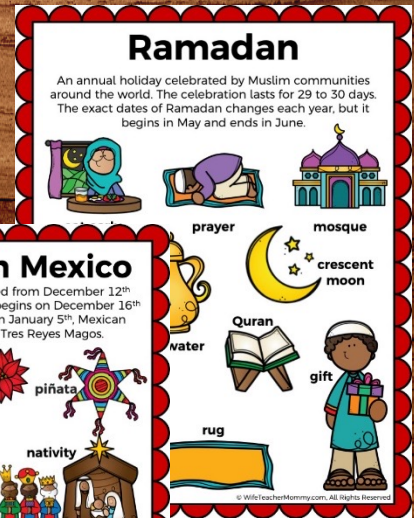
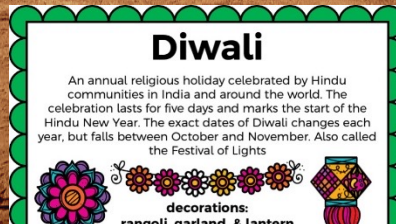
# Holiday Cards to Randomly Assign a Holiday to Each Student to Research



We have selected 12 holidays and have included cards spotlighting each of them for you to print, cut, and mix in a basket. Students will randomly choose which holiday they will research.



# Colorful, Educational, & Easy to Understand Holiday Posters to Help Inspire Your Students



We have created colorful, easy to understand posters to go along with each of the holidays. These can be used to help students think of keywords for their research or to help them with their holiday decorations and report.



# Credible Website Lists to Help You and Your Students Through the Research Process

Websites for Holiday Research	
Kid-Friendly Search Engines:	
<a href="http://www.kidrex.org">www.kidrex.org</a>	<a href="http://www.kiddle.co">www.kiddle.co</a>
Chinese New Year:	
<a href="http://www.chinesenewyears.info">www.chinesenewyears.info</a>	<a href="http://www.kids.kiddle.co/Chinese-New-Year">www.kids.kiddle.co/Chinese-New-Year</a>
<a href="http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/chinese-new-year">www.history.com/topics/holidays/chinese-new-year</a>	
<a href="http://www.ducksters.com/holidays/chinese_new_year.php">www.ducksters.com/holidays/chinese_new_year.php</a>	
Diwali:	
<a href="http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/diwali/">www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/diwali/</a>	
<a href="http://www.britannica.com/topic/Diwali-Hindu-festival">www.britannica.com/topic/Diwali-Hindu-festival</a>	
<a href="http://www.kidsgen.com/events/diwali/">www.kidsgen.com/events/diwali/</a>	
Hanukkah:	
<a href="http://www.kids.kiddle.co/Hanukkah">www.kids.kiddle.co/Hanukkah</a>	
<a href="http://www.dkfindout.com/us/more-find-out/festivals-and-holidays/hanukkah/">www.dkfindout.com/us/more-find-out/festivals-and-holidays/hanukkah/</a>	
<a href="http://www.myviewishlearning.com/article/hanukkah-101/">www.myviewishlearning.com/article/hanukkah-101/</a>	

Websites for Holiday Research	
Kwanzaa:	
<a href="http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/kwanzaa">www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/kwanzaa</a>	<a href="http://www.kids.kiddle.co/Kwanzaa">www.kids.kiddle.co/Kwanzaa</a>
<a href="http://www.ducksters.com/holidays/kwanzaa.php">www.ducksters.com/holidays/kwanzaa.php</a>	<a href="http://www.britannica.com/topic/Kwanzaa">www.britannica.com/topic/Kwanzaa</a>
<a href="http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/kwanzaa.shtml">www.whychristmas.com/cultures/kwanzaa.shtml</a>	<a href="http://www.holidays.mrdonn.org/kwanzaa.html">www.holidays.mrdonn.org/kwanzaa.html</a>
Ramadan:	
<a href="http://www.kids.kiddle.co/Ramadan">www.kids.kiddle.co/Ramadan</a>	<a href="http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/ramadan-begins">www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/ramadan-begins</a>
<a href="http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/ramadan/">www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/ramadan/</a>	<a href="http://www.softschools.com/facts/holidays/ramadan_facts/1585/">www.softschools.com/facts/holidays/ramadan_facts/1585/</a>
<a href="http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Ramadan/">www.kiddyhouse.com/Ramadan/</a>	<a href="http://www.britannica.com/topic/Ramadan">www.britannica.com/topic/Ramadan</a>
Christmas in Sweden:	
<a href="http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/sweden.shtml">www.whychristmas.com/cultures/sweden.shtml</a>	<a href="http://www.sweden.se/culture-traditions/christmas/">www.sweden.se/culture-traditions/christmas/</a>
<a href="http://www.sweden.se/collection/celebrating-the-swedish-way/article/lucia/">www.sweden.se/collection/celebrating-the-swedish-way/article/lucia/</a>	<a href="http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/sweden/christmas-day">www.timeanddate.com/holidays/sweden/christmas-day</a>
<a href="http://www.britannica.com/topic/St-Lucia-Day">www.britannica.com/topic/St-Lucia-Day</a>	<a href="http://www.kids.kiddle.co/St-Lucia-Day">www.kids.kiddle.co/St-Lucia-Day</a>

Websites for Holiday Research	
Christmas in Mexico:	
<a href="http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/mexico.shtml">www.whychristmas.com/cultures/mexico.shtml</a>	<a href="http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/mexico/christmas-day">www.timeanddate.com/holidays/mexico/christmas-day</a>
<a href="http://www.britannica.com/topic/Las-Posadas">www.britannica.com/topic/Las-Posadas</a>	<a href="http://www.tripsavvy.com/three-kings-day-in-mexico-1588771">www.tripsavvy.com/three-kings-day-in-mexico-1588771</a>
<a href="http://www.littlepassports.com/blog/world-holidays/mexican-christmas-tradition/">www.littlepassports.com/blog/world-holidays/mexican-christmas-tradition/</a>	<a href="http://www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/italy.htm">www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/italy.htm</a>
Christmas in Italy:	
<a href="http://www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/italy.htm">www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/italy.htm</a>	<a href="http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/italy.shtml">www.whychristmas.com/cultures/italy.shtml</a>
<a href="http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/italy.shtml">www.whychristmas.com/cultures/italy.shtml</a>	<a href="http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/italy/christmas">www.timeanddate.com/holidays/italy/christmas</a>
<a href="http://www.tripsavvy.com/christmas-season-events-and-traditions-in-italy-1547262">www.tripsavvy.com/christmas-season-events-and-traditions-in-italy-1547262</a>	<a href="http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/usa/christmas">www.timeanddate.com/holidays/usa/christmas</a>
Christmas in America:	
<a href="http://www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/usa.htm">www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/usa.htm</a>	<a href="http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/usa.shtml">www.whychristmas.com/cultures/usa.shtml</a>
<a href="http://www.uk.embassy.gov/americans-celebrate-christmas-with-many-traditions/">www.uk.embassy.gov/americans-celebrate-christmas-with-many-traditions/</a>	<a href="http://www.kidsgen.com/events/diwali/">www.kidsgen.com/events/diwali/</a>

Websites for Holiday Research	
Christmas in Germany:	
<a href="http://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/christmas-in-germany.html">www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/christmas-in-germany.html</a>	<a href="http://www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/germany.htm">www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/germany.htm</a>
<a href="http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/germany.shtml">www.whychristmas.com/cultures/germany.shtml</a>	<a href="http://www.christmasfm.com/christmas-around-world-germany/">www.christmasfm.com/christmas-around-world-germany/</a>
<a href="http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/germany/christmas-day">www.timeanddate.com/holidays/germany/christmas-day</a>	<a href="http://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/ife/how-germany-celebrates-christmas">www.deutschland.de/en/topic/ife/how-germany-celebrates-christmas</a>
Christmas in France:	
<a href="http://www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/france.htm">www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/france.htm</a>	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/christmas/french/">www.bbc.co.uk/languages/christmas/french/</a>
<a href="http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/france.shtml">www.whychristmas.com/cultures/france.shtml</a>	<a href="http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/france/christmas-day">www.timeanddate.com/holidays/france/christmas-day</a>
<a href="http://www.euroclubschools.co.uk/page41.htm">www.euroclubschools.co.uk/page41.htm</a>	<a href="http://www.primaryfacts.com/B092/christmas-in-france/">www.primaryfacts.com/B092/christmas-in-france/</a>
Christmas in Australia:	
<a href="http://www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/australia.htm">www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/australia.htm</a>	<a href="http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/christmas-day">www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/christmas-day</a>
<a href="http://www.twinkl.co.uk/christmas/index.html">www.twinkl.co.uk/christmas/index.html</a>	<a href="http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/australia.shtml">www.whychristmas.com/cultures/australia.shtml</a>
<a href="http://www.parenthub.com.au/education/world-traditions/christmas-world-traditions-christmas-australia/">www.parenthub.com.au/education/world-traditions/christmas-world-traditions-christmas-australia/</a>	<a href="http://www.theculturetrip.com/pacific/australia/articles/how-is-christmas-celebrated-in-australia/">www.theculturetrip.com/pacific/australia/articles/how-is-christmas-celebrated-in-australia/</a>

We have compiled a list of multiple credible and educational, safe websites for your students to use to research their assigned holiday. This will make the research process easy and direct.

WWW.WIFETEACHERMOMMY.COM



## A decorative horizontal border at the bottom of the page, composed of a sequence of small, semi-transparent circles in teal, green, and red colors.

# WINTER HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

**RESEARCH JOURNAL**



**al belongs to:**

\_\_\_\_\_



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# Final Project With Grading Rubric for Easy Assessment of Student Understanding



## Holiday Decoration & Report

### Holiday Decorations:

- One of the pieces of information that students will be researching is decorations used for their holiday. As a final piece of their unit, students will create a decoration that represents their holiday.
- Students can bring in supplies from home if they feel something that isn't supplied would benefit their creation. This must be something that is student created and not just store bought by the student.

### You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Coloring supplies
- Glue
- Scissors

### Winter Holiday Report:

- Students will use the information they've collected to write a short report about their holiday. They should include all of the information from their research journal.
- Students will write their rough drafts on regular lined paper. Students will peer edit their papers (or you may edit them). Then they will write their final draft on the Holiday Report page from this document.

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## Holiday Decoration Examples



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## Grading Rubric

10 7 5 0

	10	7	5	0
Holiday Research	The student answers each holiday question thoroughly in their journal.	The student answers most holiday questions in their journal. They may be missing some information.	The student answers some holiday questions in their journal, but they are missing some. Not enough information.	The student has very little to none of their holiday questions completed.
Holiday Report	The student has included information from each page of their journal. They include all required information.	The student has included information from most pages of their journal. They include most required information.	The student has included some information from their journal, but left out a lot. There may not be enough writing.	The student has included minimal information about their holiday or did not complete the report.
Holiday Decoration	Decoration is complete, creative, and resembles the assigned holiday.	Decoration is complete and resembles the holiday.	Decoration may not resemble the assigned holiday.	Decoration is incomplete or not done.
Participation & teamwork	The student participated throughout the unit and had no problems with teamwork.	The student mostly participated throughout the unit with minimal teamwork problems.	The student had some problems with participation and/or teamwork.	The student had major problems with participation and teamwork.

Total Points: \_\_\_\_ / 50 points

Notes:

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Students will complete their final project by writing a report about their assigned holiday and then create a holiday decoration model. We have included an easy-to-follow grading rubric to make assessments quick and easy.