


Holidays Around the World



For 4th & 5th Grades

created by
The Curriculum Corner



What holiday are you most interested in learning about?

Why do you think it is important for us to learn about holidays around the world?

How could we learn more about new holidays?

What is a holiday your family celebrates?

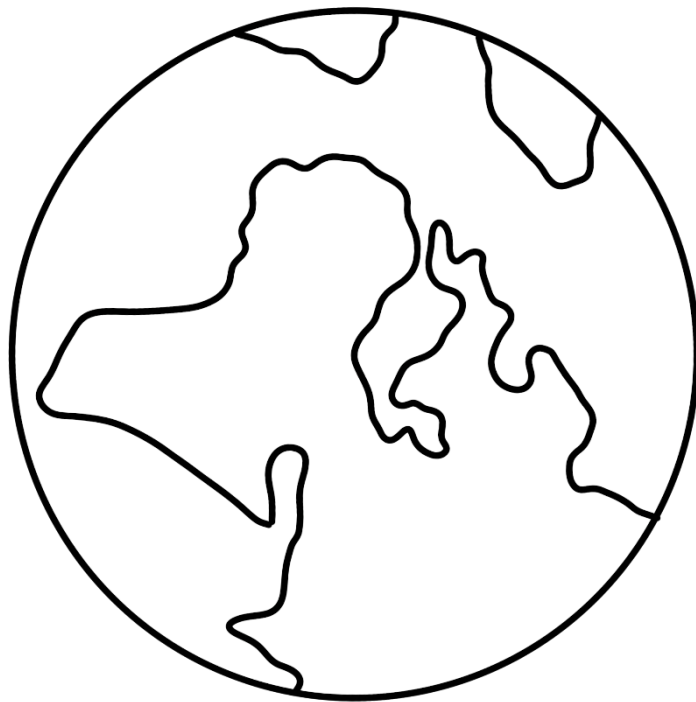
Can you think of ways that holidays around the world might be similar even if they are being celebrated for different reasons?

How could you help others learn about a tradition your family has during the holidays?

Think of ways you could help a younger child learn about different celebrations around the world.

Is there anyone you know who you could talk to in order to learn more about a holiday you don't celebrate?

Holidays Around the World



Name:

Holidays Around the World

Can you find where each holiday is celebrated?

holiday	country
Chinese New Year	
Hanukkah	
Diwali	
Kwanzaa	
Santa Lucia	
Las Posadas	

Holidays Around the World

Can you find where each holiday is celebrated?

holiday	country

I want to focus on a holiday in:

country

A holiday they celebrate here is:

holiday

I am curious about this celebration because...

Why is this holiday celebrated?

How is this holiday celebrated? Record important facts you learn below.

Visualizing

What would you see if you were where this holiday is celebrated?

Draw four pictures to show the celebration.

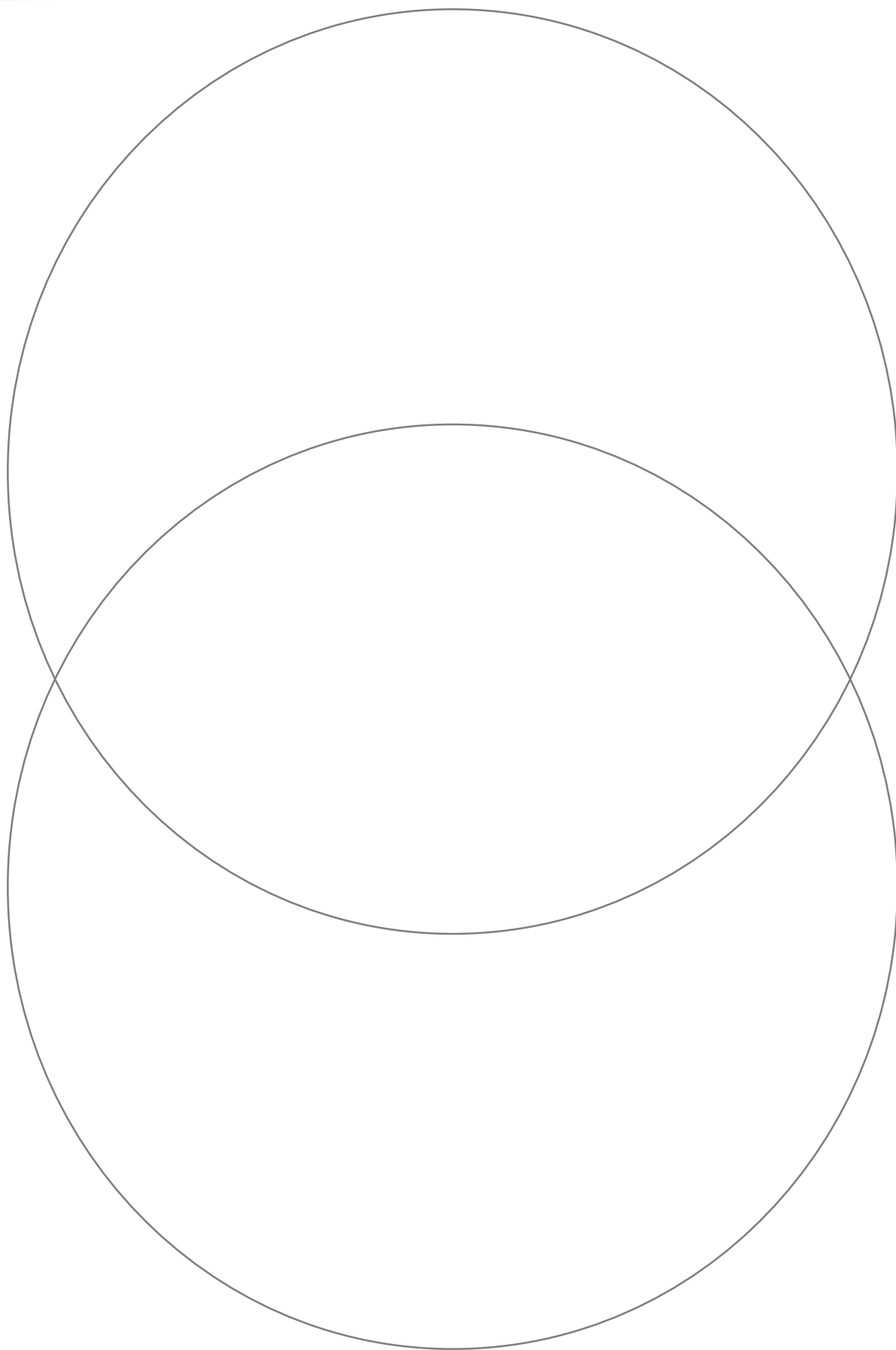
Expanding My Vocabulary

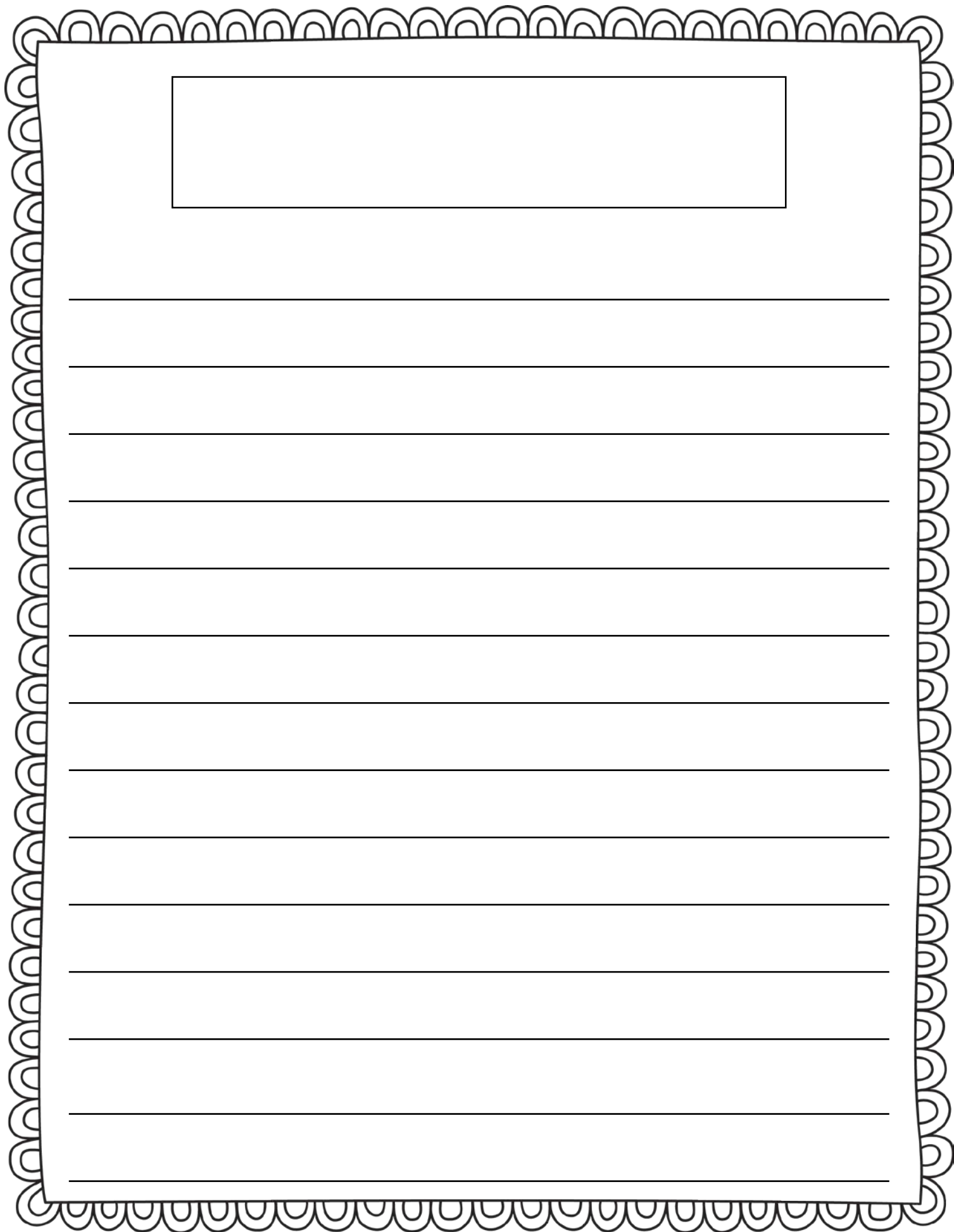
Keep track of new words you learn while studying holidays around the world. Use words and pictures to share the meaning.

word	meaning

Comparing Celebrations

Choose two celebrations. Compare and contrast the two holidays you choose.





Chinese New Year

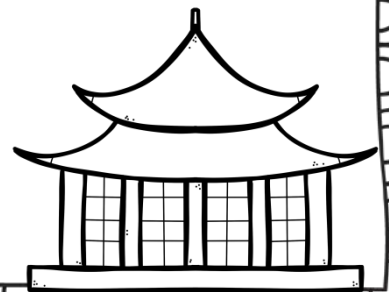
Chinese New Year is celebrated in China. It is known as the spring festival and is the most important holiday in China. It is also celebrated in other countries with a large Chinese population.

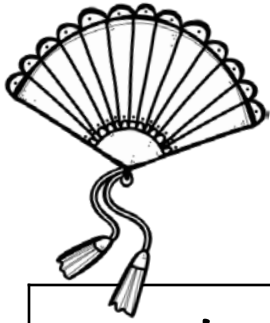
The Chinese New Year is a way to recognize the new year on the Chinese lunar calendar. The celebration starts on the 23rd day of the 12th lunar month. It ends on the 15th day of the first lunar month in the following year.

To recognize the holiday, many families will clean their homes which is thought to sweep away any ill-fortune. It will also welcome good luck. They also decorate their homes and doors with red posters, poems and lanterns. Mandarin trees are also used as a decoration.

The celebration is a time to spend time with relatives. Families will often gather for a reunion. Part of their celebration will include the honoring of ancestors.

On Spring Festival Eve (much like our New Year's Eve), people will set off fireworks. Their hope is to send away bad luck and bring on good luck. Children might receive "luck" money which might be given in red paper envelopes.





Chinese New Year

Looks like...	Smells like...
Makes me feel...	Sounds like..

Diwali

Diwali is a festival celebrated by many Indians. People who are Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs celebrate this festival. The festival is a celebration that marks the victory of good over evil.

The celebration is five days long. On the first day of the festival, it is considered good luck to clean the home and shop for gold. On the second day of the festival, families will decorate their homes with clay lamps and create designs with colored papers or sand. The third day is the main day of the festival. Families will gather for a prayer. The prayer is followed by feasts and fireworks. The fourth day is the first day of the new year. Friends and family will visit each other to exchange gifts. On the final day, brothers will visit their married sisters who will prepare a special meal.

The date of this holiday is based on the Hindu lunar calendar. It occurs during our October or November depending on the position of the moon.





Diwali

Looks like...	Smells like...
Makes me feel...	Sounds like..

Hanukkah



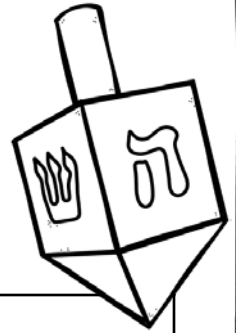
Hanukkah is a winter holiday that celebrates two things. The first is how two thousand years ago the Jewish people won a long three year battle over King Antiochus, who wouldn't let them practice their own religion. The king had been forcing the Jewish people to worship idols he chose in their own temples.

The holiday also celebrates the miracle of the lights, which honors the story of the eternal lamp. As the story goes, once the Jewish people had battled against Antiochus and won, they came back to their temple and found the flames of their eternal lamp had gone out. They only had enough oil for the lamp to burn for one day, but through a miracle it burned for eight days and nights until they had enough time to prepare more oil.

People who celebrate Hanukkah light eight candles in a menorah, a special candle holder, to celebrate the victory over Antiochus and the miracle of the eight nights of light from the eternal lamp.



Hanukkah



Looks like...	Smells like...
Makes me feel...	Sounds like..



Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa was started in 1966 by an African American teacher named Dr. Maulana Karenga. He wanted to create a specific time of the year for African American people to learn about their African history and customs. It is not a religious holiday, but a cultural celebration.

Kwanzaa begins on December 26th and ends on January 1st. It lasts for seven days and is based on Nguzo Saba, or the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa. These principles are unity, self-determination, collective work & responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. Kwanzaa is a time where African history, culture and customs are explored, remembered and honored.

The word “Kwanzaa” comes from the East African Swahili language and means “first fruits of the harvest”. In Africa it is customary to celebrate the harvest before the beginning of the dry seasons, and Dr. Karenga felt that was the perfect word to describe the type of celebration he created.



Kwanzaa



Looks like...	Smells like...
Makes me feel...	Sounds like..



St. Lucia's Day

St. Lucia's Day is celebrated in Sweden. It is a festival of lights that celebrates St. Lucia who was killed by the Romans in the year 304.

St. Lucia is known for secretly bringing food to Christians who were hiding in Rome. She wore candles on her head so she was able to have her hands free to carry the foods she would bring.

This day is celebrated on December 13th. A young girl dresses in a white dress with a red sash. She will carry palms and wear a crown of candles on her head.

Schools and towns will each choose their own St. Lucia. They will have processions where they sing carols. Girls dressed as Lucia might also visit hospitals and retirement homes.

Other girls might dress like Lucia without the candles. Young boys might dress as star boys.



St. Lucia's Day



Looks like...

Smells like...

Makes me feel...

Sounds like..

Christmas in Australia

Christmas in Australia occurs towards the beginning of summer. It is hot outside and children are on summer vacation.

Many Australians like to decorate for Christmas. They might hang wreaths on their front doors or put out a Christmas tree. Many homes will have light displays.

Cities across the country will have Christmas pageants, festivals and parades. Some places will even have fireworks. The most popular event is an outdoor concert called Carols by Candlelight. People will gather to light candles and sing Christmas carols outside.

Many families will go to church together on Christmas Eve. Overnight, Father Christmas or Santa Claus might visit and deliver gifts. In the morning, gifts will be opened and breakfast will be eaten.

Families gather in homes for Christmas. They will have a main meal at lunch. Some might go to the beach or grill dinner out in the evening. Father Christmas might even show up at the beach in shorts!





Christmas in Australia

Looks like...	Smells like...
Makes me feel...	Sounds like..

celebration

Research to find facts about the holiday you have chosen. After gathering your facts, write a page for your holiday booklet to match the others.

Where is this holiday celebrated?	
Why is this holiday celebrated?	
When is this holiday celebrated?	
Share some traditions associated with this holiday.	
Share some foods commonly eaten during this holiday.	

celebration

celebration

Looks like...

Smells like...

Makes me feel...

Sounds like..

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Favorite Food

Choose a holiday to focus on. Draw four foods that are commonly eaten during this celebration.

Celebrate With Food!

Choose a holiday to focus on. Find a food that is often made during this celebration. Find a recipe for this food.

celebration

food

Ingredients

Directions















A large rectangular box for drawing or writing.

Eight horizontal lines for writing.



