

Teaching News Is Elementary February 5, 2016

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

Materials you will need for this lesson: The Seattle Times e-Edition, pencil and paper.

Article: “Journey with Newspapers In Education and Wing Luke Museum to learn how different Asian Americans celebrate the New Year” (Vietnamese New Year)

Pages: NW Monday, B4

Date: Monday, February 1, 2016

Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

Look at the photos accompanying the article. The top photo shows dice used to play a game. Do you play any special games when you celebrate holidays or other special events? Do you get dressed up like the ladies in the photo? If so what do you wear and why? What other special things do you do to celebrate holidays?

Vocabulary:

Read the following quotes and determine the meaning of the word based on how it's used in the sentence:

“Vietnamese New Year is a time of **reflection** and **preparation** for the coming year”

reflection: careful thought about something

preparation: things that are done to make something ready or to become ready for something

“A **traditional** North Vietnamese dish is a square sweet rice cake called ‘bánh chưng’. In central and southern Vietnam, there is a **cylindrical** sweet rice cake called ‘bánh tét’ that is made specifically for Tết.”

traditional: based on a way of thinking, behaving, or doing something that has been used by the people in a particular group, family, society, etc., for a long time; following the tradition of a certain group or culture

cylindrical: shaped like a cylinder – a shape that has straight sides and two circular ends

“The kids wish their elders good fortune, good health and **longevity**.”

longevity: long life; the fact of living for many years

Journal Writing Prompts:

“As children visit their older relatives, the seniors give them advice on being honest and doing good actions. The kids wish their elders good fortune, good health and longevity.”

Has an older relative, adult or a friend ever given you advice before? Have you ever given someone advice before? What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given and why? Write about a situation where someone gave you advice before and how it helped you.

Discussion Questions:

Review the excerpt and discuss the following questions:

“Vietnamese New Year is a time of reflection and preparation for the coming year. The whole house is cleaned and flowers are put up to invite good spirits.”

What does it mean to reflect on something? What types of events or situations in your life have you reflected on before? Why is reflection important and how can evaluating or reflecting on our past help us prepare for future events? How is reflecting on the future different than reflecting on the past?

Small group discussion and activity:

“A traditional North Vietnamese dish is a square sweet rice cake called ‘bánh chưng’. In central and southern Vietnam, there is a cylindrical sweet rice cake called ‘bánh tét’ that is made specifically for Tết.”

Using a map or globe pick a country, other than the United States, and research to find out what foods are traditionally eaten in that country or culture. How is the food in that country or culture similar and/or different to what you eat at home or at school? Next, discuss and make a list of different types of foods we eat in the United States that come from other countries and cultures. Have each person in your group put a check next to each of the foods on your list that they have tried. What foods can you think of that are traditional to the United States?