

Teaching News Is Elementary

December 16, 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.

Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Materials you will need for this lesson: The Seattle Times print replica, computer or smart board, pencils or pens, paper

Article: “Not home for the holidays”

Pages: NW Traveler, page I1

Date: Sunday, December 11, 2016

Standards:

Social Studies EALR 3: GEOGRAPHY

The student uses a spatial perspective to make reasoned decisions by applying the concepts of location, region, and movement and demonstrating knowledge of how geographic features and human cultures impact environments.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers

Objectives:

Students will read about different holiday celebrations around the world and create a postcard describing an international holiday of their choice.

Pre- Reading Discussion Questions:

- 1) Take 3-5 minutes to make a list of everything you associate with the following word:
Holiday
- 2) Compare your list with someone sitting next to you – what did you come up with that was the same? What did you come up with that was different?
- 3) Switch partners and compare lists again. (You can do this several times)
- 4) As a class discuss:

- Did you have any words that were unique to your list only? Why do you think that is?
 - Were there any words that seemed to reoccur on people's lists? What were they? Why do you think they reoccurred?
- 5) Make a class list of the most commonly reoccurring words. Discuss why these words are common in your class and what they might say about your classroom community.
 - 6) As you read, underline or highlight any of the words in the article that also appear on the class list.

Vocabulary:

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

"It was one of the more unusual ways I've spent a Christmas morning. It helped open my eyes to the **novelty** — and joy — of sharing holidays with people around the world, whether at Christmas or on other occasions."

Novelty: the quality of being new, original, or unusual

"Nearly half of those said they'd like to experience how another culture celebrates the holidays. So **indulge** that **whim**."

Indulge: allow oneself to enjoy the pleasure of

Whim: a sudden desire or change of mind, especially one that is unusual or unexplained

"Ask what tasty **nosh** is in the house at Christmas, and the British are **liable** to say "cheese."

Nosh: a light meal or snack

Liable: likely to do or to be something

"Britain's Christmas family-theater tradition adapts traditional fairy tales to a delightfully **kitschy** format that includes the audience frequently warning the hero to "look out behind you!" and features **double-entendre** jokes that soar over kids' heads while making parents blush."

Kitschy: things (such as movies or works of art) that are of low quality and that many people find amusing and enjoyable

Double-entendre: phrase, saying or sentence that can be interpreted in two different ways

“I was in Chiapas, in the mountain town of San Cristóbal de las Casas, in mid-September 2013, and even in this poor corner of southern Mexico, a cradle of rebellion in the 1990s, they celebrate the national holiday with color and **fervor**.”

Fervor: intense and passionate feeling

Journal Writing Prompts:

Choose one of the holiday celebrations described or mentioned by the author. What do you think it would be like to attend this event? Describe what you think you would hear, smell, see, taste, and feel. Would anything exciting happen?

Discussion Questions:

Have you ever been to holiday celebration outside of the US? And/or have you ever been to a celebration for a holiday that your family doesn't celebrate? What was it like? How did you feel? What do you think someone not familiar with a holiday that you celebrate might think if they came to your house during the celebration? Do you know of any other holiday celebrations around the world that were not mentioned in the article? Were a lot of the words from your class holiday word list used in the article? Why do you think this happened/ did not happen?

Small group discussion and activity:

Either pick a country that you are not familiar with or choose one that was mentioned in the article. Use the internet to research a holiday or celebration that is popular in that country. Some questions you might want to pay attention to during your research:

- Where is the holiday celebrated?
- Who celebrates?
- What is the holiday celebrating?
- How is the holiday celebrated?
- When does the holiday occur? For how long?

Use what you learn to create a postcard from that country. On the blank side, draw a picture of something related to the celebration or what you imagine the celebration might look like. On the lined side, write a message to a friend, relative, or pen pal describing the holiday.