



Christmas Traditions of the World

By: Amanda Martin
Elementary school music teacher; M.A.Ed. In Curriculum and Instruction

Holiday
Grades 6–8



Introduction

Have you ever wondered how other countries celebrate Christmas? In this activity, students will discover the meaning of tradition and create an informative essay through the research of specific holiday traditions from another country.

Learning Objectives

Students will write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content ([CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.2](#))

Materials Needed

- Journals/notebooks
- Notebook paper
- Laptops/computers

Procedure

1. Ask students: **What are traditions?** Discuss what traditions are and fill up a page with information. You may also ask students to come to the board and add their own specific family traditions to the page as well.
2. Now, students will direct their focus to specific traditions that are only seen or participated in at Christmas. Ask students to think about the following question: *Does your family have any holiday traditions (specifically at Christmas time)?* Have students pair and share their responses for roughly 2-3 minutes. Allow a few students to share their answers with the class. Then, tell the students that they will be learning about and researching various Christmas traditions from around the world.
3. To complete research, assign students to a small group of 3-4 students. Groups will be given a laptop or computer to use and a country to research. Some of the countries to include are Norway, Australia, Russia, Italy, Germany, France, and Japan. Groups will research their specific country to find what unique traditions they have during the holiday season (i.e. special foods, parties, beliefs, etc.). Each student should write down their group's findings individually as it will be needed during the next activity. If you wish to discuss some of the traditions around the world as a class first, [this website provides great information](#) for several countries.

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4. Now that student research is complete, inform the students that they will be writing an informative/explanatory essay to inform others about their specific country and its holiday traditions. The essay format should be:

- Introduction
- Body paragraph 1
- Body paragraph 2
- Body paragraph 3
- Conclusion

Each body paragraph must include information found during their group's research. Completed student essays will be evaluated using the rubric below.

Evaluation

Please use the rubric on the next page to evaluate each student's essay.



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Christmas Traditions Around the World Informative Essay	4 (Excellent)	3 (Good)	2 (Okay)	1 (NEEDS IMPROVEMENT)
The student includes an introductory paragraph.				
Body paragraph 1 includes sufficient evidence to support the student's viewpoint.				
Body paragraph 2 includes sufficient evidence to support the student's viewpoint.				
Body paragraph 3 includes sufficient evidence to support the student's viewpoint.				
The student includes a paragraph of conclusion.				
The student uses complete sentences with appropriate capitalization, grammar, and punctuation.				