

Are you looking for ideas to teach celebrations and holidays?

Educators must be cognizant of and show appreciation for the cultural diversity that exists in North Carolina classrooms. Below are sites and resources to assist the elementary teacher in achieving this goal. The websites and resources support the following *North Carolina Social Studies Standard Course of Study* goals and objectives:

Kindergarten	Competency Goal 4: The learner will explain celebrated holidays and special days in the communities.
	Objectives: 4.01 Explore how families express their cultures through celebrations, rituals, and traditions. 4.02 Identify religious and secular symbols associated with famous people, holidays, and special days of diverse cultures. 4.03 State reasons for observing special, religious, and secular holidays of diverse cultures.
First Grade	Competency Goal 4: The learner will explain celebrated holidays and special days in the communities.
	Objectives: 4.01 Recognize and describe religious and secular symbols/celebrations associated with special days of diverse cultures. 4.02 Explore and cite reasons for observing special days that recognize celebrated individuals of diverse cultures. 4.03 Recognize and describe the historical events associated with national holidays. 4.04 Trace the historical foundations of traditions of various neighborhoods and communities.
Second Grade	Competency Goal 3: The learner will analyze how individuals, families, and communities are alike and different.
	Objectives: 3.03 Compare similarities and differences among cultures in various communities 3.05 Identify historical figures and events associated with various cultural traditions and holidays celebrated around the world. 3.06 Identify individuals of diverse cultures and describe on their contributions to society.
Third Grade	Competency Goal 1: The learner will characterize qualities of good citizenship by identifying people who made a difference in the community and other social environments.
	Objectives: 1.06 Identify selected personalities associated with major holidays and cultural celebrations.
Fourth Grade	Competency Goal 5: The learner will examine the impact of various cultural groups on North Carolina.
	Objectives: 5.01 Explain different celebrated holidays, special days, and cultural traditions in North Carolina communities. 5.02 Describe traditional art, music, and craft forms in North Carolina. 5.03 Describe and compare the cultural characteristics of regions within North Carolina and evaluate their significance.

Fifth Grade	Competency Goal 3: The learner will examine the roles various ethnic groups have played in the development of the United States and its neighboring countries.
	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>3.01 Locate and describe people of diverse ethnic and religious cultures, past and present, in the United States.</p> <p>3.03 Identify examples of cultural interaction within and among the regions of the United States.</p> <p>3.04 Hypothesize how the differences and similarities among people have produced diverse American cultures.</p> <p>3.05 Describe the religious and ethnic impact of settlement on different regions of the United States.</p> <p>3.06 Compare and contrast the roles various religious and ethnic groups have played in the development of the United States with those of Canada, Mexico, and selected countries of Central America.</p> <p>3.07 Describe art, music, and craft forms in the United States and compare them to various art forms in Canada, Mexico, and selected countries of Central America.</p>

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/SeasonalThemes.htm>

<http://www.educationworld.com/holidays/archives/december.shtml>

http://K6educators.about.com/od/holidaysandspecialevents/Holiday_Lesson_Plans.htm

<http://www.mrdonn.org/holidays.html>

<http://www.cloudnet.com/~edrbsass/edholiday.htm>

http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Christmas_Around_the_World/index.shtml