

Kids and Cultures presents

Celebrate!

World Holidays for Kids

www.KidsAndCultures.com

Dear teacher,

We are excited to perform at your school! Together with you and your students, we look forward to learning about other people and places through hearing about their holiday traditions, and enjoying some of the stories that have been passed down to this generation. This letter is a "heads up" of what to expect, as well as some ideas for what you can do to maximize the learning for your students.

The show we will be performing for you is called *Celebrate! World Holidays for Kids*. It features information about holidays celebrated around the world. The show includes games, traditions, and stories that explain some cultures' holiday traditions. Our hope is that, through this show, we can all enjoy others' traditions and better appreciate their celebrations.

Before we come, you and your students could:

- Discuss what a celebration is, and the role celebrations play in societies.
- Talk about holidays that children in your class celebrate.
- Identify common stories shared during those holidays.
- Use a map or globe to locate the countries featured in our stories.
- Discuss different calendars (lunar, Gregorian, etc.) and why some celebrations seem to "change dates" from year to year.
- Find out what you already know about these countries. You could begin a Know/Want to know/Learned chart with them, and update it afterwards.
- Prepare to listen for something in the show that you did not know, and recall it later.

As your class enters the performance area, if time allows, you may join our "pre-show trivia game show." This multiple-choice event allows students to learn about holiday celebrations in other places and cultures while cheering on fellow student contestants. During this time, we may also ask you as the teacher to select a student to help us present part of the show.

Once the show begins, our hope is that you will enjoy it as much as your students, and that we can all learn together. Please interact with us during the show, and encourage your students to do the same. It is more fun for all of us to *Celebrate!* with an involved audience!

After the show, you can:

- Ask students to name a tradition they learned about and where it comes from.
- Invite students to re-tell a story they heard.
- Ask students to write or draw about a new year's tradition they want to try this year.
- Allow students to write about their own holiday tradition: either one that their families celebrate, or one that they create.
- Create your own classroom "family" celebration tradition: invent an upcoming holiday as a class and celebrate it together as prescribed when the big day arrives!
- Review the handout with your students and send it home so other family members can find out what the students experienced today.

Celebrate! World Holidays for Kids includes information about celebrations such as:

2006-07 WORLD HOLIDAYS

- October 21 **Divali** (India)
- November 1 to 5 **Loy Krathong** (Thailand)
- November 15 **Shichi-Go-San Matsuri** (Japan)
- December 6 **St. Nicholas Day** (Christian)
- December 16 to 23 **Hanukkah** (Jewish)
- December 25 **Christmas** (Christian)
- December 26 to January 1 **Kwanzaa** (African-American)
- December 31 **Feast of the Sacrifice** (Muslim)
- January 1 **New Year's Day** (Worldwide)
- February 8 or 15 **Nirvana Day** (Buddhist)
- February 18 **Tet** (Vietnam)
- February 18 **Chinese New Year** (China)



The presenters for the show are Timm and Kristina Wenger, along with their children Katia and Thaniel.

Celebrate!

December 2006

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WORLD HOLIDAYS GAME

For two or more players. Each player needs a button, stone, or other marker. On each turn, the player flips a coin—for heads, move one space; for tails, move two spaces. When you land on a question square and answer correctly, move one more space. If not, stay where you are until the next turn. The first person to reach HOME wins! If you get stuck, find the answers at our website: www.KidsAndCultures.com. Have fun!

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Every day, you can visit www.KidsAndCultures.com to discover a world holiday!

Kids and Cultures is a non-profit educational organization that introduces children to world cultures, promoting awareness, understanding, and responsible action as world citizens. Find out more at www.KidsAndCultures.com.

