

Lesson/Activity Title:

HOLIDAYS IN AMERICA



Time: approximately 10-15 minutes for the focus; approximately 15 minutes for the teach/model; 45-60 minutes for independent practice; and 20-45 minutes for closure

Instructional Goals:

- The students will utilize the **PebbleGo** Social Studies online database to research the history and traditions of holidays celebrated in America
- The students will record information about one holiday using the **PebbleGo** Social Studies online database
- The students will draw a picture depicting children celebrating or honoring the holiday they research
- The students will learn how the holidays fall in the calendar throughout the year

Integrated Content Standards

- AASL Standards Framework for Learners (<http://standards.aasl.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/AASL-Learner-Framework-Spread.pdf>)
- Common Core English Language Arts/Literacy Standards (www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/)
- National Educational Technology Standards for Students (<https://www.iste.org/standards/for-students>)
- NCTE/IRA Standards for English Language Arts (www.ncte.org/standards/ncte-ira)

Materials/Resources:

- **PebbleGo** Social Studies online database
- Holidays Research handout
- Art supplies such as markers, crayons, or colored pencils

Procedures/Lesson Activities:

Focus

1. Bring students together and write the word "Holidays" for students to see. Ask them to brainstorm a list of holidays they either celebrate or have heard of. Record their responses.
2. Tell students that some holidays celebrate happy events and others help us remember important events in time. Go back through the list of brainstormed holidays and lead a brief discussion about the type of holiday each is on the list. Help students answer questions such as:
 - What is the purpose of the holiday?
 - How is it celebrated?
 - When is it celebrated?
3. Explain to students that there are many holidays people celebrate around the world. Today they will learn about many different holidays.

Teach/Model



4. Show students how to access the “Holidays” articles within the **PebbleGo** Social Studies database.
5. Click on “Chinese New Year.”
6. Point out the readaloud option and click on the speaker icon to demonstrate this feature.
7. Demonstrate how to navigate through the various tabs within the article by clicking on “Getting Ready” and “New Year’s Day.”
8. Distribute the Holidays Research handout and go over the instructions with your students.
9. Tell students they will now research one holiday using the **PebbleGo** Social Studies database. Each student or small group should ideally have a different holiday to research to cover as many holidays in the database as possible. You may assign a holiday or place all of the holiday names from the database in a hat and allow students to randomly select one.

Guided Practice

10. Refer students to the Holidays Research handout and walk students through completing a few portions. Point out the space students will use to draw people celebrating/honoring their holiday and discuss what types of details they could use to make their drawing as accurate as possible.
11. Remind students they always need to give credit to their source when researching a topic. Show students how to click on the “cite” button within the **PebbleGo** article. Write the information provided within the database in the appropriate section of the Holidays Research handout.

Independent Practice

12. Allow students sufficient time to access the **PebbleGo** Social studies online database to research their holiday and complete the Holidays Research handout.
13. Circulate the room and answer any questions the students might have during the research process.
14. Give students access to crayons, markers, or colored pencils to complete their illustration.

Closure

15. Bring students together and allow them to make a brief oral presentation on their holiday. Students should explain what their holiday celebrates and why it’s important. They should also show students their illustration.

Extend/Enrich

Discuss how the holidays you covered fall within the calendar year. Create a “human timeline” to help students understand this. For example, allow students to hold up their drawings created in the lesson plan and ask them to arrange themselves in order based on when their holiday falls within the calendar year.

Name: _____



Holidays Research Handout

Choose a holiday from the PebbleGo Social Studies online database to research. Complete the handout using information you learned during your research.

The name of the holiday I am researching is:

This holiday is a:

CELEBRATION or REMEMBRANCE OF AN IMPORTANT EVENT

(circle your answer)

What are four interesting facts about your holiday?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Bibliography: _____

Use the space below to draw a picture of people celebrating or honoring your holiday. Use as much detail as you can to show people, traditions, and decorations for the holiday.

