

# MUSEUM TOUR

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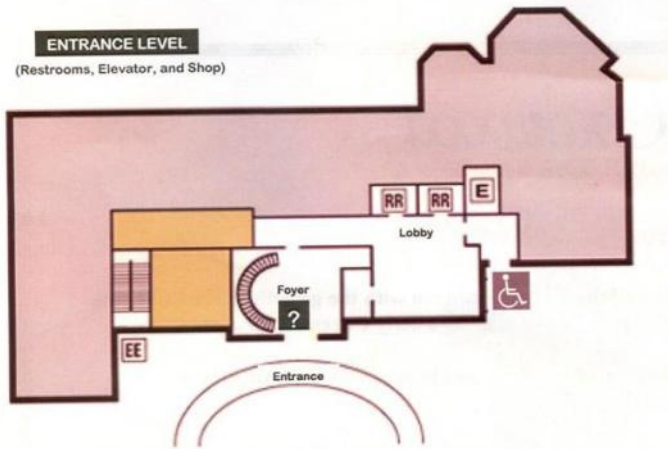
## Holiday at Cheekwood

Celebrate the season and experience one of Nashville's most beloved holiday traditions. Cheekwood's Museum of Art becomes a holiday fantasy of lavishly decorated rooms filled with beautifully trimmed trees.

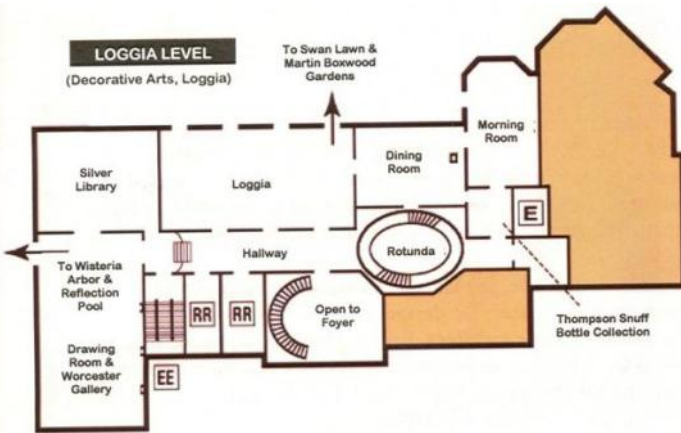
This Teacher's Guide has been prepared to provide additional information on several of the multicultural holidays that take place during this time of year - Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Navidad.

# MUSEUM MAP & ETIQUETTE

**ENTRANCE LEVEL**  
(Restrooms, Elevator, and Shop)



**LOGGIA LEVEL**  
(Decorative Arts, Loggia)



**SECOND FLOOR**  
(Fine Arts, Traveling Exhibitions)



## MUSEUM and GARDEN ETIQUETTE

Prior to your visit, please review the Museum and Garden Rules with your students.

- Visitors are asked to stay on the paths for the protection of the plant collections and for their own safety.
- Please do not touch the plants or artwork. Stay at least an arm's length away from works of art in the Museum.
- Speak in a normal 'inside' voice. Please do not disturb guests in the gardens or galleries by yelling or shouting to others.
- Stay with your group. Cheekwood is very large, and it is easy to get distracted. We do not want anyone to be separated from their group.
- Please leave any backpacks or large purses at school or on the bus while visiting. Bulky objects might bump a work of art and damage it.
- Photography is not permitted in the Museum of Art, but students are welcome to take pictures in the gardens.
- Students may only use pencils in the galleries. Pens, markers, and crayons are not allowed.



**BEFORE YOUR VISIT & WHEN YOU ARRIVE**

# HISTORIC CHEEKWOOD

Within its 55 acres, Cheekwood is a complex institution rich with history, beautiful gardens and nationally acclaimed art. The history of Cheekwood is intimately interwoven with the growth of Nashville, the Maxwell House coffee brand and the Cheeks, one of the city's early entrepreneurial families. Here is their story.

In 1890, Leslie Cheek moved with his family from Kentucky to Nashville to join his father's grocery business in Cummins Station. Soon after joining his father's firm, Leslie Cheek met Mabel Wood and they were married in 1896. Their son, Leslie Cheek, Jr. was born in 1908 and their daughter, Huldah Warfield Cheek, followed in 1915.

While Leslie worked with his father in the grocery business, his cousin Joel developed a superior blend of coffee. Members of the Cheek family invested in Cheek-Neal Coffee. Eventually, Joel convinced the best hotel in Nashville, the Maxwell House, to carry his coffee exclusively, and the Maxwell House brand was born. When Joel Cheek sold his brand to Postum (now General Foods) for over \$40 million in 1928, Leslie's investment in the coffee paid him well. Trading his Postum shares for IBM stock, Leslie secured his fortune. He and Mabel purchased 100 acres in West Nashville and built their dream house, which later became known as Cheekwood.

The couple hired New York residential landscape architect Bryant Fleming to create the 30,000 square foot Georgian-style mansion with formal gardens. Built from limestone quarried on the grounds, Fleming designed the home so that it appears to rise out of the hill. He also orchestrated the placement of doors, windows and rooms to accentuate the views of gardens and landscape, completely tying the house to the grounds in every aspect.



Left to Right: Aerial view of Cheekwood during the time of the Cheeks; Guests awaiting the public opening of Cheekwood in 1960.

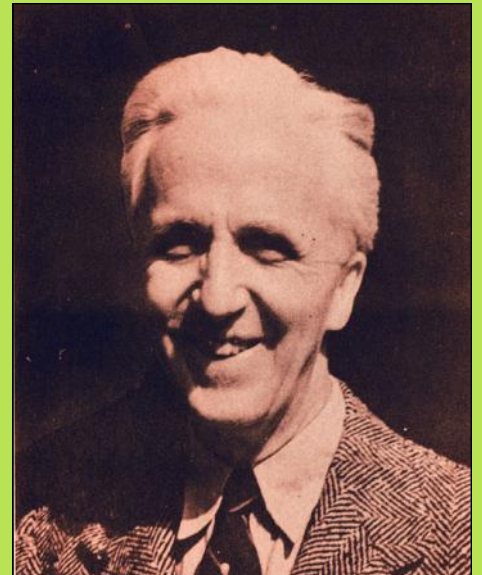
# HISTORIC CHEEKWOOD

To furnish the home, Mr. and Mrs. Cheek traveled with Fleming to Great Britain to buy antiques and furniture for the great mansion. After their return, four railcars were required to ship these treasures to the location. Construction on the mansion began in 1929, ended in 1932, and was one of the largest employers in Nashville during the Depression.

In January 1933, Leslie and Mabel moved into their new home. Leslie lived only two years at Cheekwood before his death in 1935, and nine years later Mabel Cheek deeded the house to their daughter Huldah and her husband Walter Sharp. In 1957, the Sharps offered the mansion and 55 acres of land for the establishment of a botanical garden and art museum. After renovations to transform the home into a true museum, Cheekwood's Fine Art Center opened to the public on May 22, 1960 with a dedication given by Senator Albert Gore, Sr.

Since 1960, Cheekwood's Museum of Art has acquired a diverse art collection that emphasizes American and European paintings, prints, photographs, sculptures, and decorative arts. Through purchases and gifts, the art collection has grown to approximately 8,000 objects. The Botanical Garden has also expanded, and now features 19 different collections displayed within ten beautiful specialty gardens. Cheekwood's plant collections include boxwoods planted by the Cheek family, daffodils, dogwoods, herbs, and many others.

Today, Cheekwood continues to strive to fulfill its mission, to "Inspire and educate by making art, horticulture and nature accessible to a diverse community."



Left to Right: Leslie, Huldah, and Mabel Cheek before they embark on European buying trip; Drawing Room with the original furnishings; Bryant Fleming, the landscape architect who designed the Cheekwood mansion and gardens.

# CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the annual Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ as described in the Bible (Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 1:26-56). It is celebrated on December 25. The official Christmas season, popularly known as either Christmastide or the Twelve Days of Christmas, extends from the anniversary of Christ's birth on December 25 to the feast of the Epiphany on January 6. In addition to being a religious holiday, Christmas is a widely observed secular festival. For most people who celebrate Christmas, the holiday season is a time of gatherings among family and friends, feasting, and gift giving.

In the United States, many elements of modern Christmas celebrations did not emerge until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Before then Christmas had been an ordinary workday in many communities, particularly in New England, where early Puritan objections to Christmas celebrations remained strong. The rapidly expanding industrial economy of the 19<sup>th</sup> century not only flooded the market with new goods for sale, but also helped establish a new middle class, one that placed special value on home and family life. Christmas gained increased prominence largely because many people believed it could draw families together and honor children. Giving gifts to children and loved ones eventually replaced the raucous public celebrations of the past, and Christmas became primarily a domestic holiday.

## SANTA CLAUS

As Christmas evolved in the United States, new customs were adopted and many old ones were reworked. The legend of Santa Claus, for example, had origins in Europe and was brought by Dutch settlers to New York in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Traditionally, Santa Claus - from the Dutch *Sinterklaas* - was depicted as a tall, dignified, religious figure riding a white horse through the air. Known as Saint Nicholas in Germany, he was usually accompanied by Black Peter, an elf who punished disobedient children. In North America he eventually developed into a fat, jolly old gentleman who had neither the religious attributes of Saint Nicholas nor the strict disciplinarian character of Black Peter.

Santa's transformation began in 1823, when a New York newspaper published the poem "A Visit from Saint Nicholas," which Clement Clark Moore had written to amuse his daughter. The poem introduced many Americans to the story of a kindly saint who flew over housetops in a reindeer-drawn sleigh. Portraits and drawings of Santa Claus by American illustrator Thomas Nast further strengthened the legend during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Living at the North Pole and assisted by elves, the modern Santa produced and delivered toys to all good children. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century he had become such a prominent figure of American folklore that in 1897, when Virginia O'Hanlon wrote to the *New York Sun* newspaper asking if Santa were real, she received a direct answer: "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."



# CHRISTMAS

## THE CHRISTMAS TREE

While Santa Claus became increasingly familiar to Americans, the German Christmas tree also acquired popularity in North America. As early as the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Germans had transformed this pagan symbol of fertility into a Christian symbol of rebirth. According to legend, the Christmas tree tradition began with the founder of German Protestantism, Martin Luther. While walking through the forest on Christmas Eve, Luther was so moved by the beauty of the starlit fir trees that he brought one indoors and decorated it with candles to remind his children of God's creation. In 1841, Prince Albert of Germany gave his wife, Queen Victoria of England, a gift of a Christmas tree. This was reputedly the first Christmas tree in England, but the custom spread quickly. German immigrants took the Christmas tree to other parts of Europe, the United States, and Canada, where it soon became a popular tradition. Blown-glass ornaments, tin angels, paper chains, candles, cornucopias filled with sugarplums, and other decorations made the simple evergreen tree into a beautiful parlor centerpiece at Christmas time.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

The practice of exchanging Christmas cards also became a widespread custom in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Europeans had distributed wood prints with a religious theme for Christmas during the Middle Ages (5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century). In 1843, English illustrator John Callcott Horsley created the first modern Christmas card. The card depicted a family celebration and its caption read, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You." In the United States, German-born printer Louis Prang made advances in color lithography that enabled him to mass-produce a colorful Christmas card in 1875. The card sold extremely well, and soon the custom of exchanging Christmas cards spread throughout the country.



## WHAT ELSE MIGHT YOU SEE DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON?

### ADVENT CANDLES AND WREATH

Advent means "the coming." The wreath consists of four purple candles and a white candle. One purple candle is lit each week during the four weeks prior to Christmas. The white candle is called the Christ candle and is lit on Christmas Day.

### NATIVITY SCENE

The Nativity scene depicts the manger as the birthplace of Jesus. It is a visualization of the biblical account (Luke 2) of the events before, during and following the birth of Jesus.

# HANUKKAH

Hanukkah or Chanukah (Hebrew for “dedication”), is the annual festival of the Jewish people celebrated on eight successive days. It begins on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev, the third month of the Jewish calendar, corresponding, approximately, to December in the Gregorian calendar. Hanukkah is also known as the Festival of Lights, Feast of Dedication, and Feast of the Maccabees.

## History

Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem by Judas Maccabee in 165 BC. Rededication was necessary because Antiochus IV Epiphanes, king of Syria and overlord of Palestine, had *profaned* (defiled) the temple. In 168 BC, on a date corresponding approximately to December 25 in the Gregorian calendar, the temple was dedicated to the worship of the pagan god Zeus Olympius by order of Antiochus, who forbade the practice of Judaism. An altar to Zeus was set up on the high altar. When Judas Maccabee recaptured Jerusalem three years later, he had the temple purged and a new altar put up in place of the desecrated one. The temple was then rededicated to God with festivities that lasted eight days. According to tradition, only a one-day supply of nondesecrated olive oil could be found for the rededication, but that small quantity burned miraculously for eight days. Jews commemorate this event by lighting candles for the eight nights of Hanukkah. The principal source for the story of Hanukkah is the Talmud.

## Celebrations Today

The principal feature of present-day Hanukkah celebrations is the lighting of candles, one the first night, two the second, and so on until eight candles have been lit in a special candelabrum called a menorah. A Hanukkah menorah has eight branches and a holder for an extra candle that is used to light the others. (A seven-branched menorah that also has its origins in biblical times is now a symbol for the state of Israel.) A blessing is said each night as the Hanukkah candles are lit.

Hanukkah is a festive family occasion, with special foods and songs. Children generally receive small gifts or money, known as Hanukkah *gelt* (money), each evening after the candles are lit. Foods fried in oil, such as *latkes* (potato pancakes) and doughnuts, commemorate the miracle of the oil. Sweet foods are also popular, and children may receive chocolate coins in place of Hanukkah *gelt*. Songs also play a part in the festivities and remind the family of the events commemorated.



# HANUKKAH

## What is a Menorah?

After the Macabee's victory over the Greeks, they returned to the Temple to find it desecrated and in ruins. As legend has it, there was only one small vessel of oil with which to light the Menorah, that would have lasted only one day. The miracle was that the oil lasted eight days, enough time to make more oil for the Temple. The significance of the menorah has two parts; one is to symbolize the Menorah in the temple and the other is to mark the eight days of Hanukkah. While the Menorah used in the Temple had seven branches, the menorah we light on Hanukkah is a nine branch candelabra with 8 of the candles on one level and 1 candle (usually at the end or the middle) separated from the others. The extra candle is called the 'Shamash' and is the one used to light the others candles.

On Hanukkah, we light eight candles - one for each of the eight days of celebration in the time of the temple. On the first day we light one candle, two on the second day, and so on, up to eight on the last day.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Dreidels

Dreidel is a derivative of a German word meaning "top" and the game is an adaptation of an old gambling game. Hanukkah was one of the few times of the year when rabbis permitted games of chance. The dreidel, therefore, was a natural candidate for Hanukkah entertainment. The four sides of the top bear four Hebrew letters: nun, gimel, hei, and shin. Players would begin by "anteing" a certain number of coins, nuts, or other objects. Each one in turn would then spin the dreidel and proceed as follows: nun ("nichts") – take nothing; gimel ("ganz") – take everything; hei ("halb") – take half; shin ("shtell") – put in.

The winner would often receive money (Hanukkah gelt). Over time, the gambling terms were reinterpreted to stand for the Hebrew phrase Nes Gadol Hayah Sham, "A great miracle happened there." Thus, even an ordinary game of chance was invested with Jewish values and served to remind Jews of the important message of Hanukkah. Today, Jewish children throughout the world continue to enjoy the game of dreidel. In Israel, one letter on the dreidel has been changed. The shin has been replaced with a pei, transforming the Hebrew phrase into Nes Gadol Hayah Po. "A great miracle happened here."



Taken from: *The Jewish Outreach Institute*  
<http://joi.org/celebrate/hanuk/dreidels.shtml>



# KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is a seven day festival celebrating African American people, their culture, and their history. It was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966 as a time of celebration, community gathering, and reflection. Kwanzaa begins December 26<sup>th</sup>, the day after Christmas, and continues until New Years Day, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Each evening, a family member (usually the youngest child) lights candles in a special candleholder and discusses one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. On the sixth day, which falls on New Years Eve, family and friends gather together to enjoy a large feast and to celebrate their history, culture, and the upcoming new year.

## ***THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA***

Kwanzaa was created to introduce and reinforce seven basic values of African culture which contribute to building and reinforcing family, community and culture among African American people as well as Africans throughout the world community. These values are called the *Nguzo Saba* which in Swahili means the Seven Principles. Developed by Dr. Karenga, the Nguzo Saba stand at the heart of the origin and meaning of Kwanzaa, for it is these values which are not only the building blocks for community but also serve to reinforce and enhance them.

***Umoja* (oo-MOH-jah): Unity**

Success starts with the unity of family, community, nation and race.

***Kujichaulia* (koo-jee-chah-goo-LEE-ah): Self-Determination**

Be responsible for ourselves, and create our own destiny.

***Ujima* (oo-JEE-mah): Collective work and responsibility**

Work together with one another to build and maintain the community together.

***Ujamaa* (oo-jah-MAH): Collective economics**

To build, maintain, and support our own stores, establishments, and businesses.

***Nia* (NEE-ah): Purpose**

To restore African American people to their traditional greatness, and to be responsible to those who came before (our ancestors) us and those who will follow (our descendants).

***Kuumba* (koo-OOM-bah): Creativity**

Using creativity and imagination to make our communities better than what was inherited.

***Imani* (ee-MAH-nee): Faith**

Believing in our people, families, educators, leaders, and the righteousness of the African American struggle.



# KWANZAA

## **Kwanzaa in the Home**

A central place in the home is chosen to display the symbols of Kwanzaa. A table is then spread with a beautiful piece of African cloth. The mkeka (mat) is placed on the table and all of the other symbols are placed on it or immediately next to it to symbolize our rootedness in tradition. Next the Kinara (candle holder) is placed on the mat and the Mishumaa Saba (seven candles) are placed in the kinara (candle holder). The colors of Kwanzaa are black, red and green; black to represent the people, red to represent their struggle, and green to symbolize the future and hope that comes from their struggle. Therefore there is one black candle, three red and three green candles. These are the mishumaa saba (the seven candles) and they represent the seven principles. The black candle represents the first principle Umoja (unity,) and is placed in the center of the kinara. The red candles represent the principles of Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujamaa (cooperative economics) and Kuumba (creativity), and are placed to the left of the black candle. The green candles represent the principles of Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Nia (purpose) and Imani (faith), and are placed to the right of the black candle. The black candle is lit first on the first day of the celebration. And the remaining candles are lit afterwards from left to right on the following days. This procedure is to indicate that the people come first, then the struggle and then the hope that comes from the struggle.

The mazao (crops) and ears of corn are also placed on the mkeka. At least two ears of corn are placed down on the mat regardless of whether there are children in the immediate family or not. This symbolizes the children of the community belonging to all of us and every adult in African tradition is considered an immediate or social parent. Next the kikombe cha umoja (the Unity cup) is placed on the mkeka. It is used to pour tambiko (libation) to the ancestors in remembrance and honor of those who paved the path which we walk and who taught us about the good and the beautiful in life. Then African art objects and books on the life and culture of African people are placed on or next to the mat to symbolize our commitment to heritage and learning.

*Summarized from: Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture, 2008, Los Angeles: University of Sankore Press  
www.sankorepress.com*

## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

### **Greetings**

The greetings during Kwanzaa are in Swahili. Swahili is a Pan-African language and is chosen to reflect African Americans' commitment to the whole nation of Africa and African culture rather than to a specific ethnic or national group or culture. The greetings are to reinforce awareness of and commitment to the Seven Principles.

### **Gifts**

Gifts are given mainly to children, but must always include a book and a heritage symbol. The book is to emphasize the African value and tradition of learning stressed since ancient Egypt. The heritage symbol is to reaffirm and reinforce the African commitment to tradition and history.

# NAVIDAD

While the most beloved Mexican Christmas traditions are firmly based on the birth of Christ, the timing of the celebration coincides with Mexico's ancient worship of the sun. During the nine darkest days of winter, the Aztecs celebrated the God of the Sun, pleading for his return and praising both the Sun and his virgin mother goddess.

## POSADAS

*Las Posadas* are a series of nine charming children's processions which are uniquely, genuinely and exclusively Mexican, seemingly invented by the early Spanish missionaries solely to comfort and convert the former Aztecs. The tradition of the nine days of processions (*Posadas*) began soon after the arrival of the Spaniards in Mexico. Clever San Ignacio de Loyola created the customs to teach the story of the birth of Jesus and more importantly to coincide with the nine day *Fiestas* of the Sun, which celebrated the virgin birth of the Aztec Sun god, Huitzilopchtli, from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> of December. Special permission was received from Rome to celebrate nine "Christmas Masses" to represent the nine months of Mary's pregnancy.

In December, children in the villages will set out each evening from the church for a pilgrimage to a different neighborhood. This procession symbolizes the journey made by Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem and Joseph's search for shelter (*Posada*) at an Inn (also *Posada*).

## NACIMIENTOS

The most beloved Christmas tradition in Mexico is the *Nacimiento*, an elaborate arrangement of clay, wax, wood, metal, fabric and beaded figures depicting the birth of the Christ Child.

Every home will have a nativity scene. The hosts of the home are the innkeepers, and the neighborhood children and adults are *Los Peregrinos*, who have to request lodging through singing a simple chant. All carry small lit candles in their hands and four teenagers of about the same height are chosen to carry *Los Peregrinos*, which are two small statues of St. Joseph leading a donkey, which Virgin Mary is riding sidesaddle. The head of the procession will have a candle inside of a paper lamp shade that looks like an accordion but open at the top and it is called a "*Farolito*" or little lantern.

The *Peregrinos* will ask for lodging in three different houses but only the third one will allow them in. That will be the house that is supposed to have the *Posada* for that evening. Once the innkeepers let them in, the group of guests comes into the home and kneels around the Nativity scene to pray the Rosary. The *Rosary* is a traditional Catholic prayer, which consists of the following prayers: 50 *Hail Mary*, 5 *Our Father*, 5 *Glory* and the *Litany*, which is a series of Praises for the Virgin Mary, plus singing traditional songs like *Holy Night* in Spanish.



# NAVIDAD

## PINATA

After all the prayer is done, then it's time for the party for the children. There will be a *Piñata* (pronounced Pignata, for it has an ñ instead of an n), filled with peanuts in the shell, oranges, tangerines, sugar canes, and some wrapped hard candy. The children will sing chants while each child in turn tries to break the Piñata with a stick while he/she is blindfolded.

Although the Piñata was originally from Italy, it has become a Mexican tradition for celebrations where there are children involved. The Piñata was made out of a clay pot and decorated with crepe paper in different colors. Today's piñatas are made out of cardboard and paper mâché and decorated with crepe paper. This change was made to prevent children from cutting their hands on the clay pieces when reaching for fruit and candy when the Piñata was broken. There are many designs beside the traditional star. As the custom gained popularity, piñatas were made more festive by adorning them with bits of cloth and paper. Eventually the seven-pointed star, representing the seven deadly sins, became the traditional form for Christmas piñatas. The deeper meaning of breaking the piñata is considered to be the destruction of evil forces, the victory of good over evil. Covering the eyes of the person who tried to smash the piñata is symbolic of blind faith, which is rewarded with the pleasantries of heaven, represented by the sweets spilled from within the pot.

## LOS REYES MAGOS

The Christmas season continues unabated in Mexico through Epiphany, which is called *Día de los Reyes* (Three Kings Day). Echoing the arrival in Bethlehem of Wise Men bearing gifts for the baby Jesus, children throughout Mexico anxiously await waking up January 6th to find toys and gifts left by the *Reyes Magos* (Magi). In some regions it is customary to leave out shoes where treasures may be deposited by the visiting Wise Men. A special treat served on this day is the *Rosca de Reyes* - a crown-shaped sweet bread decorated with jewel-like candied fruits. Tiny figures of babies are hidden in the dough before baking. There is much excitement as each partaker cuts his or her own slice, for whoever gets a piece containing a baby is obliged to host another party on or before Candlemas, February 2, when Mexico's holiday season finally comes to an end.

### ***WHAT ELSE MIGHT YOU SEE DURING NAVIDAD?***

#### **Poinsettias**

Joel Roberts Poinsett was the first United States Ambassador to Mexico who was appointed by President John Quincy Adams in the 1820's. At the time of his appointment, Mexico was involved in a civil war.

During his stay in Mexico he wandered the countryside looking for new plant species. In 1828 he found a beautiful shrub with large red leaves growing next to a road. He took cuttings from the plant and brought them back to his greenhouse in South Carolina. Even though Poinsett had an outstanding career as a United States Congressman and as an ambassador, he will always be remembered for introducing the poinsettia into the United States.

# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## Coffee Filter Holiday Garland

### Materials:

- Coffee filters
- Liquid watercolors
- Paintbrushes or droppers
- Glue stick
- Ribbon or string

### Directions:

1. Flatten out the coffee filters, then paint them using watercolor paints (food coloring works as well).
2. Let the filters dry.
3. Fold the coffee filters over the ribbon, using a small amount of glue to keep them in place.
4. Use the garland to decorate your house, classroom or Christmas tree.

*Taken from: [artfulparent/typepad.com](http://artfulparent/typepad.com)*



# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## Acorn Dreidel

### Materials:

- Acorn shells
- Modeling clay
- Small sticks or the wooden ends of matches



### Directions:

1. Break the modeling clay into small pieces.
2. Shape the clay into an elongated ball.
3. Fill the acorn shell with the clay. Make sure to give the clay a little bit of shape at the top (see picture).
4. Place the small stick or wooden piece of match into the center of the modeling clay (cut off the red end of the match before putting it in the clay).
5. Spin, spin and enjoy!



*Taken from: matzosoup.com*



# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## Adire Cloth

### Materials:

- Fabric
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrushes
- Pencil
- Tape
- Newspaper
- Scissors
- Fabric tape or glue
- Vegetable shortening
- Stencils (optional)



### Directions:

1. Cut the fabric into the shape of your choice, and tape it to a newspaper backing (to reduce mess). Then tape the whole cloth to a table to keep it taut.
2. Draw your shapes (or use stencils) on the pieces of cloth.
3. Using a paintbrush, apply a thick layer of vegetable shortening over each design. (Note: The designs will be white when finished.)
4. Thin the acrylic paint with a little bit of water, so it is about the consistency of yogurt. Then paint the entire piece of fabric, even over the designs.
5. Let the fabric dry overnight. When it is completely dry, peel it off the newspaper.
6. Rinse the fabric in water with a little soap and hang it up to dry.

*Taken from: [familyfun.go.com](http://familyfun.go.com)*

# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## Poinsettia Painting

### Materials:

- Sponges (cut into leaf shapes)
- Tempera paint, in assorted colors
- Paintbrushes
- White construction paper
- Paint trays
- Q-tips

### Directions:

1. Give each student a piece of white paper and a Q-tip, and have them share sponges, paint and brushes.
2. To begin, have students dip the Q-tips in yellow paint and create 4 dots (for the center of their poinsettias) on several areas of the paper.
3. Dip or brush paint onto the sponges, then press the sponges onto the paper so that the tip of the leaf-shaped sponge is close to the yellow dots (see picture).
4. Once all the leaves are painted, use the brushes to paint around the leaves. This will fill in the background.
5. Let dry.

*Taken from: [deepspaceparkle.com](http://deepspaceparkle.com)*



# VOCABULARY

## **ADVENT**

Advent means “the coming.” The Advent candles and wreath consists of four purple candles and a white candle. One purple candle is lit each week for the four weeks prior to Christmas and they are descriptive of Jesus, as read from the Bible.

## **CHRISTMAS TREE**

According to legend, the Christmas tree tradition began with the founder of German Protestantism, Martin Luther. While walking in the forest on Christmas Eve, Luther was so moved by the beauty of the starlit fir trees that he brought one indoors and decorated it with candles to remind his children of God’s creation.

## **DREIDLE**

A dreidle is a four-sided spinning top inscribed with Hebrew letters standing for Nes Gadol Haya Sham meaning “a great miracle happened there.”

## **HANUKIYYAH**

Hanukkiyah is the Hebrew word specifically referring to the nine branch candelabra lit during Hanukkah.

## **KIKOMBE CHA UMOJA**

The Unity Cup (Kikombe cha Umoja) is symbolic of the foundational principle and practice of unity which makes all else possible.

## **MENORAH**

Menorah is the Hebrew word for candelabra.

## **MISHUMAA SABA**

The (Mishumaa Saba) Seven Candles are symbolic of the Nguzo Saba, the Seven Principles, the matrix and minimum set of values which African people are urged to live by in order to rescue and reconstruct their lives in their own image and according to their own needs.

## **NACIMIENTOS**

The most beloved Christmas tradition in Mexico is the Nacimiento, an elaborate arrangement of clay, wax, wood, metal, fabric and beaded figures depicting the birth of the Christ Child.

## **NATIVITY**

The Nativity scene depicts the manger as the birthplace of Jesus.

## **PINATA**

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## **POSADAS**

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# CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

## *Visual Art*

### **2.0 Structures and Functions**

- Identify and understand the elements of art and principles of design.
- Understand that art has a purpose.

### **3.0 Evaluation**

- Explain subject matter, symbols and ideas in others' art.

### **4.0 Historical and Cultural Relationships**

- Understand that culture and history influence art.

## *Social Studies*

### **Culture**

- Understand the diversity of human cultures.
- Recognize the contributions of individuals and people of various ethnic, racial, religious, socioeconomic groups to the development of civilizations.



Trees and decorations from *Holiday at Cheekwood* 2010.



# RESOURCES

## WEBSITES

**Christmas – History.com**

<http://www.history.com/topics/christmas>

**The Official Kwanzaa Website**

<http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/index.shtml>

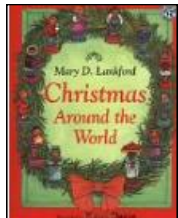
**The Complete Story of Hanukkah – Chabad.org**

[http://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah/article\\_cdo/aid/102816/jewish/Chanukah-Story.htm](http://www.chabad.org/holidays/chanukah/article_cdo/aid/102816/jewish/Chanukah-Story.htm)

**Feliz Navidad : Making Merry in Mexico – Mexconnect.com**

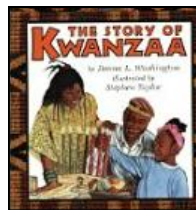
<http://www.mexconnect.com/articles/1945-feliz-navidad-making-merry-in-mexico>

## BOOKS



**Christmas Around the World**

Mary D. Lankford, Karen Dugan and Irene Norman  
HarperCollins, 1998



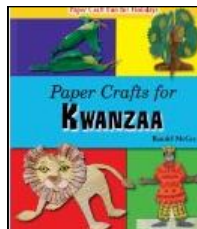
**The Story of Kwanzaa**

Donna L. Washington and Stephen Taylor  
Harper Collins, 1996



**A Christmas Carol**

Charles Dickens and Brett Helquist  
HarperCollins, 2009



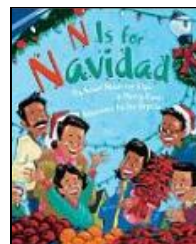
**Paper Crafts for Kwanzaa**

Randel McGee  
Enslow, 2008



**Light the Lights! A Story about Celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas**

Margaret Moorman  
Cartwheel, 1999



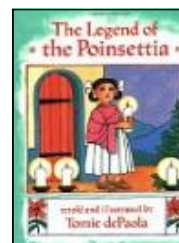
**N is for Navidad**

Susan Middleton Elya, Merry Banks and Joe Cepeda  
Chronicle Books, 2007



**Hannukah!**

Roni Schotter and Marilyn Hafner  
LB Kids, 2003



**The Legend of the Poinsettia**

Tomie dePaola  
Puffin, 1997



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