A Holiday Fair

Standard
Understand culture and cultural diversity.

Objective
Students will explain the meaning and customs behind traditional United States and world holidays.

Materials
Make a Holiday Display reproducible
Holiday Choice Board reproducible
books about holidays
36" x 48" project display boards
art supplies

Strategies
Cooperative group learning

Choice board

Everyone loves a holiday, especially kids! In this activity, students not only learn about holidays, but also plan their own special celebration. Working in pairs or small groups, students choose activities to teach others about the holidays they are studying. The project culminates with a holiday fair packed with food, music, crafts, and fun!

1. Display your collection of books about various federal holidays. Select one or two books to read aloud each day.

2. Discuss with students what makes each holiday special and unique. Ask: *Why do we celebrate this holiday? What traditions do people follow for this holiday? Does your family do anything special for this holiday?*

3. Have students work in small groups, and assign each group one holiday. To make sure groups work together effectively, try to group students according to different abilities. For example, try to create groups that include a good reader, writer, artist, and manager.

Make a Holiday Display Page 57

Holiday Choice Board Page 58

4. Tell groups they will design a holiday-fair booth. They will create a holiday display, following the directions on the **Make a Holiday Display reproducible (page 57)**. Then they will select other projects for their booths from the **Holiday Choice Board reproducible (page 58)**.

5. Go over the reproducibles with students, giving step-by-step instructions and answering questions. Give them plenty of class time to prepare for the fair. Assist each group with their project, and allow them access to library books and the Internet to learn about the holidays.

6. Invite parents, other classes, and staff members to attend the Holiday Fair. Cover tables with festive tablecloths, and have groups display their projects on the tables. Encourage guests to ask questions and share holiday stories and experiences.

Ideas for More Differentiation

Have students prepare a survey for their guests to complete. The survey can ask about favorite holidays and holiday traditions that people practice. After the fair, have students analyze and graph the results.

Extend the Activity

Encourage students to continue this study by having a multicultural fair. Invite students and parents to bring in different cultural foods from home to share with the class. They can share special family holiday stories and traditions. Celebrations might include Chinese New Year, Ramadan, Boxing Day, Hanukkah, and Children's Day.
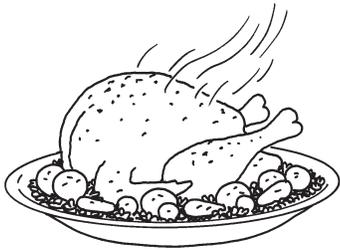
Holiday Choice Board

Directions: Choose projects for the Holiday Fair. Use your projects to teach others about your holiday.
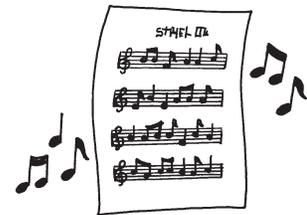
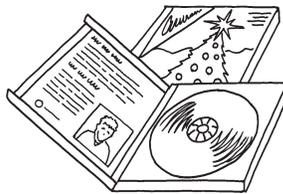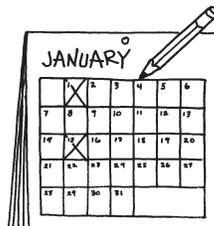|		
1. Make food served for the holiday.	**2.** Make a holiday craft. Write down how you made it. Help people make it at the fair.	**3.** Write a song about the holiday. Sing it at the fair.
4. Get library books about the holiday. Put them with your display.	**5.** Find music played for the holiday. Play it at the fair.	**6.** Write a poem about the holiday.
7. Perform a skit about the holiday.	**8.** Make a calendar. Show when holidays are celebrated.	**9.** Make a comic book. Tell how people celebrate the holiday.