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Worksheet Instructions: Holidays

This lesson helps students learn about eight holidays celebrated by different cultural groups in Kansas. Standards covered include Kansas History: (Benchmark 3, Indicator 3) The student explains customs related to holidays and ceremonies celebrated by specific cultural groups in Kansas (e.g. Kwanzaa, Cinco de Mayo, St. Patrick's Day, St. Lucia, Christmas, Ramadan, Lunar New Year, Hanukah).

Eight different holidays are featured in this lesson. Students will practice sequencing instructions for a food recipe or craft item relating to each holiday. Making the craft and food item can be extended activities. You may choose to use this lesson plan throughout the year by studying each holiday in the season it takes place.

1. Explain that the class will be learning about eight holidays celebrated in Kansas, the United States, and sometimes around the world. They will learn about different traditions followed by the people who celebrate these holidays.
2. Choose one holiday description and read it to the class. Then give students a copy of the description to read to themselves.
 - Ask the students to share what they have learned about the holiday.
 - Introduce the "How to" worksheet for this holiday.
 - Demonstrate cutting and sequencing sentence strips as a class.
3. Start a timeline on the wall with the months of the year. Place each holiday name below the month in which it is celebrated that year.
4. Repeat the above activity with each holiday.

Timeline: The following is a tentative outline for the holidays in this lesson. Since some of these holidays are based on the lunar new year, the date can change dramatically. This timeline is based on the earliest date for the holiday.

Ramadan (November to February)
Hanukah (November or December)
St. Lucia's Day (December 13)
Christmas (December 25)
Kwanzaa (December 26 through January 6)
Lunar New Year (January 21 to February 19)
St. Patrick's Day (March 17)
Cinco De Mayo (May 5)