



LESSON PLAN:

December Letter – Holiday Traditions

Unbound Global Competency Standards

MS5: Reflect on personal identity and its relation to global citizenship.

**Content:** Multidisciplinary**Grade:** 6th-8th

Exit Ticket:

Choose one of the following:

- Teacher observation of student participation and engagement.
- Review of written responses.

**Total Time:** 20-30 minutes

Activity: Background

Ask the students any of the following questions:

- "What is your favorite fall or winter holiday?"
- "What are some traditions your family has for this holiday?"
- "Have you ever heard of how other cultures celebrate this holiday or a similar one?"

Record responses to these questions on the board or on a PPT slide for each holiday.

**Time:** 3 minutes**Resources:** Write on the board or use a PPT slide



Activity: Learning Activity

If the class has received a letter back from their GC, read it aloud to the class.

Discuss the content of the letter and its cultural significance.

- "What did our GC share about their culture?"
- "What similarities and differences did you notice between their daily life and ours?"
- "Did they mention any holidays they celebrate or traditions they have?"

Also, discuss and answer any questions your GC has asked. *Teacher - keep track of answers for response letter.

If the class has not received a letter back from their GC, discuss the common holidays and cultural traditions they have in the GC's country.

Discuss common U.S. traditions and family traditions for the most common holiday.

- "What are some things that many people do to celebrate this holiday?"
- "What are some special things your family does for this holiday?"



Time: 10 minutes

Resources: Letter from sponsored friend

Activity: Practice

Students write detailed reflections about their favorite holiday tradition, including their name, age, and a question for their GC.

- "Write a detailed reflection about your favorite holiday or tradition. Be specific about why it is your favorite and what gives it meaning to you and your family. Include your name, age, and a question for your GC about their holiday traditions."



Time: 10 minutes

Resources: Notebook paper





Activity: Exit Ticket

Students share 2 things from what they wrote with a partner, table group, or the class.



Time: 5 minutes

Resources: The teacher should take the information from the class and fill out the letter template and choose one student's reflection to include in the letter.



TEACHER RESOURCE

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Letter Template

Dear _____ [Friend's Name],

Hello from _____ [Your Classroom/School]! In our class, we recently talked about our favorite fall and winter holidays and the traditions we have. Here are some of the holidays we celebrate and the traditions we have: [Talk about favorite holiday traditions of your students] _____

Through our letters, we would like you to get to know some of the individual students. Please see a message from one of them.

_____. [Chosen student's holiday reflection].

We were curious to know more about you and your holiday traditions. _____

[Include chosen student's question and 1-2 others from other students]. We are excited to learn more about you, your culture, your family, and your community.

Your friends,

_____ [Class/Grade Name]