

*A FREE ELEMENTARY RESOURCE FROM EDMENTUM*

# Winter Holidays

PreK–6<sup>th</sup>

Grade Range

# Winter Holidays Elementary Teaching Resources

## What Does This Pack Include?

This pack has been created by teachers, for teachers. In it you'll find high quality teaching resources to help you and your students learn all about how people celebrate winter.

To go directly to the content, simply click on the title in the index below:

CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS:	
Pre-K – Grade 2	Grades 3-6
Discuss how students celebrate the winter holidays with their family.	Discuss what holiday celebrations students know from around the world.
FACT SHEETS:	
Pre-K – Grade 2	Grades 3-6
Explore different countries winter celebrations, including Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and Omisoka.	Discover how other countries mark their celebrations.
ACTIVITY SHEETS AND ANSWERS:	
Pre-K – Grade 2	Grades 3-6
Use the questions to help draw a picture to show people celebrating the holiday.	Research a winter holiday and use a concept web to organize what's learnt.
POSTERS:	
Winter Holidays	

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Rosa has invited her friends to her house.  
They are having a posada party.



They have a piñata.  
**What do you think you do with a piñata?**

## What are some other special things that might happen at Rosa's party?



**What is a winter holiday your family celebrates?  
How do you celebrate?**

Rosa's family is going to a posada party.  
There will be a large piñata filled with candy and toys.  
The kids will take turns hitting it with a bat until the treats fall out.



**What other special things might  
you see at a holiday celebration?**

People might wear special clothes, eat special food, listen to special music, or have special decorations.



What are some holiday celebrations that you know from around the world?  
How are they celebrated?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_



# Winter Holidays



There are many celebrations in winter. Here are a few.

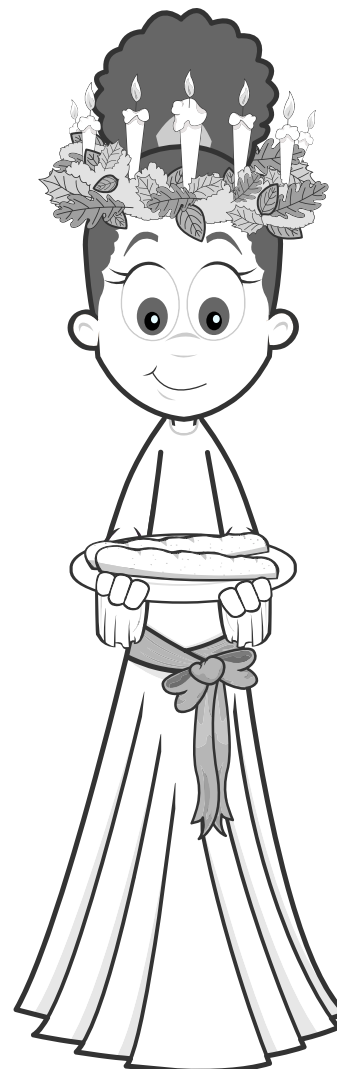
You may have heard of some of them.

Can you think of any other winter celebrations?

**St. Lucia's/St. Lucy's Day:** This is a festival of lights. People in Sweden, Norway, and Finland celebrate it. People wear special clothes. There are parades. The girls and boys wear white clothes. The girls wear wreaths on their heads. The wreaths have candles. People eat baked goods and sing songs. It is on December 13th.

**Hanukkah:** Hanukkah is a festival of lights. It happens sometime from late November to late December. It is 8 days long. Each day families light special candles. People eat special foods like potato pancakes. Some children play with a top called a dreidel and eat chocolate coins called gelt.

**Kwanzaa:** Kwanzaa is a special week when people think about African heritage. It lasts from December 26th to January 1st. Each day has a special purpose like faith, creativity, or unity. People light candles to remember the special purpose. Families may share special meals, music, readings, or gifts.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Christmas:** Christmas is on December 25th. Many families put a Christmas tree in their home along with other decorations like stockings. Families may share gifts with each other. They may eat special foods like sugar cookies cut into fun shapes.

**Omisoka:** Omisoka is a New Year's Eve (December 31st) celebration in Japan. Before the new year, families clean their homes really well. Then, they have a big feast with special foods like soba noodles. At midnight big bells ring and people drink a sweet drink called amazake.

**Chinese New Year:** The date of Chinese New Year is different each year. It is in January or February. To celebrate, people first clean their homes. Then, they decorate with red decorations. They set off fireworks for good luck. There are festivals with drums, dances, and people in dragon costumes.

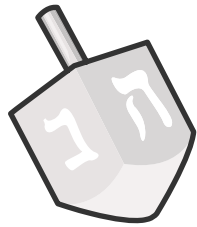






Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Winter Holidays

**There are so many winter celebrations around the world.  
Here are a few that people celebrate!**

**St. Lucia's/St. Lucy's Day:** St. Lucia's Day is a festival of lights that takes place on December 13th. It is often celebrated in Sweden, Norway, and Finland. During the festival, young girls dress in white and wear wreaths with white candles on their heads. Young boys wear white costumes. They march through the city singing traditional songs. Families drink coffee and eat special baked goods such as lussekatter (saffron bread) and ginger biscuits.

**Hanukkah:** Hanukkah is also known as a festival of lights. It is an eight-day celebration that happens sometime between late November and late December. Each day families light a candle in a special candleholder called a menorah. Children receive gifts each day of Hanukkah, like gelt (chocolate coins). People eat special food like latkes (potato pancakes) and play games, often with a spinner called a dreidel.

**Kwanzaa:** Kwanzaa is a weeklong holiday from December 26th to January 1st when African heritage is celebrated. Each day is focused on a different core value. These values are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. It may feature lighting candles on a kinara to remember each principle. Families may share special meals, music, readings, or gifts.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Christmas:** Christmas is on December 25th. Families celebrate Christmas in different ways. Many people who celebrate Christmas decorate their home with a Christmas tree covered in ornaments. They may also hang stockings. Families and friends may exchange gifts on Christmas day. Many families share special foods such as decorated sugar cookies and hot chocolate.

**Omisoka:** Omisoka is a New Year's Eve (December 31st) celebration in Japan. To get ready for the New Year, families clean their homes to get rid of clutter from the last year. There is then a giant feast with traditional foods such as soba noodles. Large iron bells ring at midnight to celebrate the New Year. Then people share a sweet drink called amazake.

**Chinese New Year:** In China, the New Year is celebrated on the old Chinese calendar, and it happens sometime in January or February. It is different each year. The New Year is also called the Spring Festival. People clean their homes and put up red decorations. On New Year's Eve, people set off fireworks for good luck. Children and young adults may also receive "luck money" which is given in a red envelope. There are many different activities at the festivals such dances performed by people in dragon costumes.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

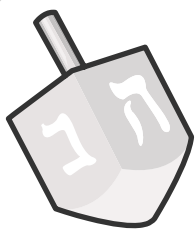
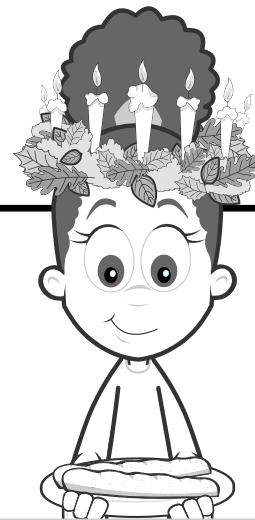
Choose a winter holiday.

Write the name of the holiday.

Then, draw a picture to show people celebrating the holiday.

Use these questions to help you include lots of details in your drawing.

- What will they wear?
- Are they eating special foods?
- Are they doing special activities?
- Are there any decorations?



**Holiday:** \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

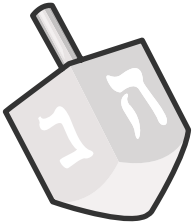
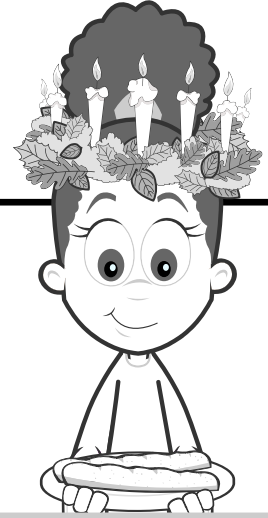
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**Holiday:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Accept any reasonable responses.**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

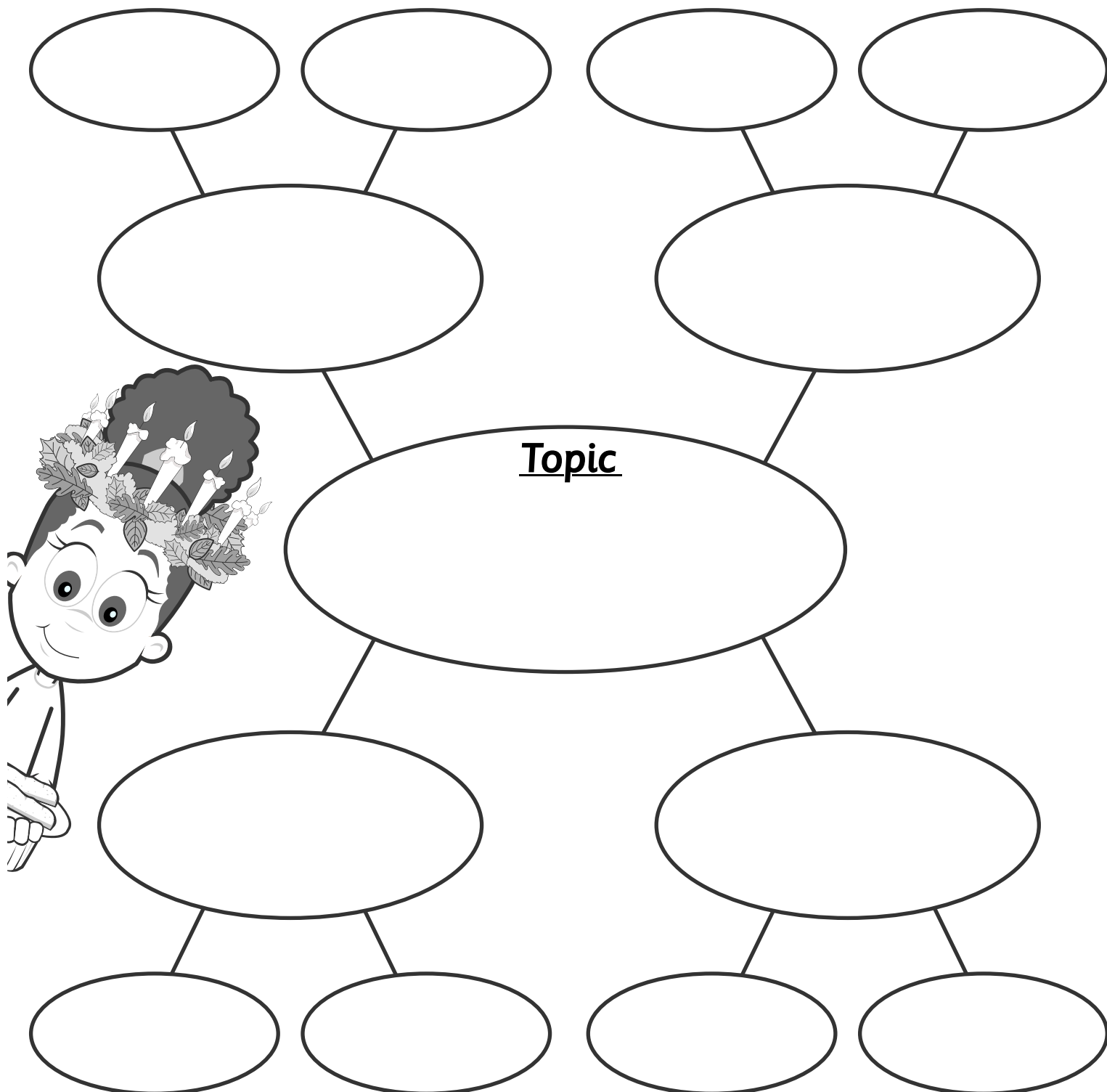
Choose a winter holiday to research.

The holiday may be celebrated anywhere around the world.

Use a concept web to organize what you learn.

You may wish to look at special clothing, food, or activities that are celebrated during the holiday.

Use the graphic organizer below or make your own.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

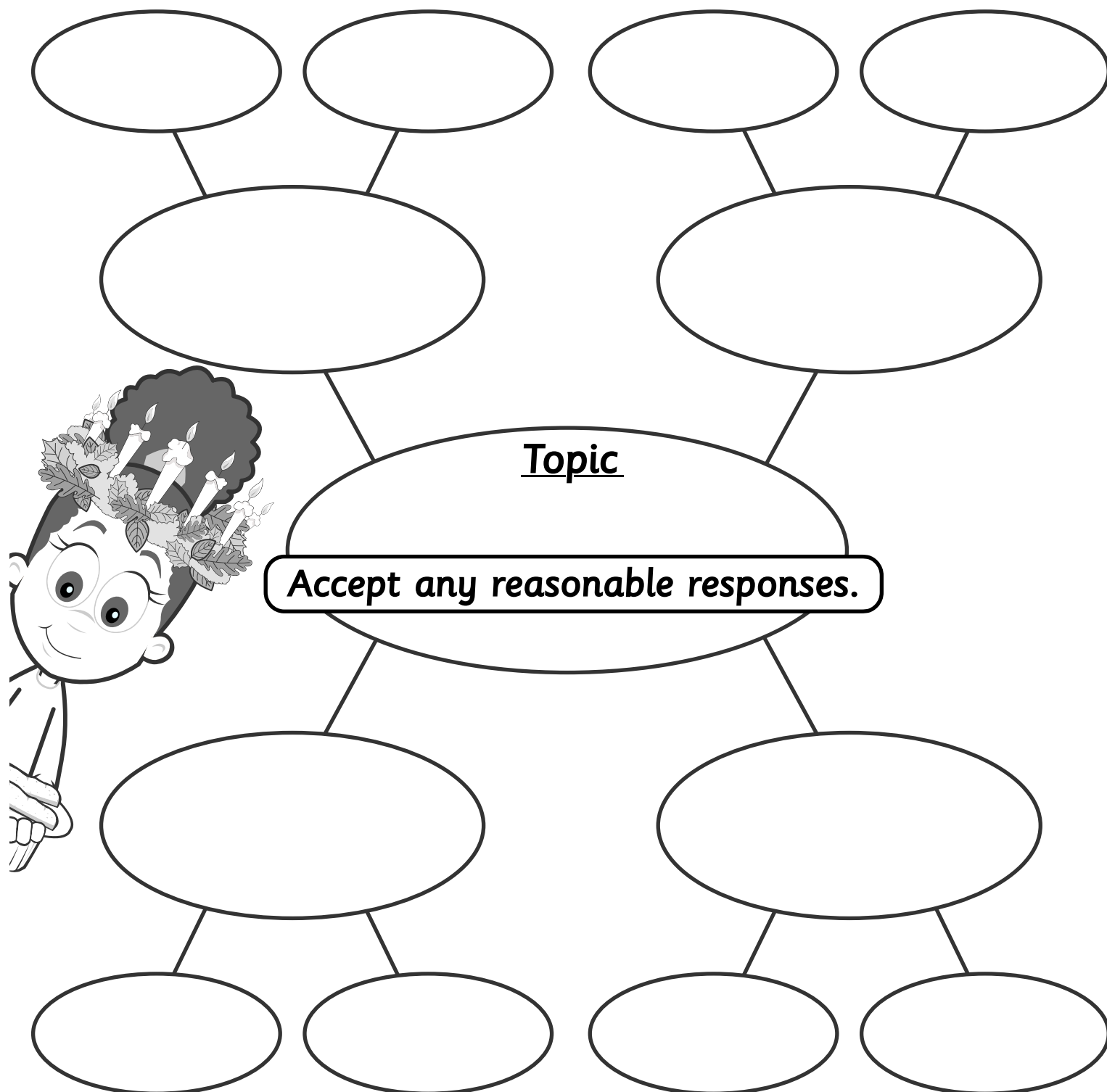
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