



WINTER HOLIDAY MULTICULTURAL FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

Study Guide

Celebrate Winter Traditions Around the World!

Dance • Music • Movement • Storytelling • Culture • Community

ABOUT THE SHOW

This vibrant festival celebrates global winter holidays through folk dance, music, movement, and storytelling. Traditions connected to Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Día de los Reyes (Three Kings Day), Winter Solstice, and more come alive on stage. Audience participation is encouraged - so be ready to move, clap, and celebrate!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Recognize customs from a variety of winter holidays.
- Understand how dance and music express cultural traditions.
- Appreciate the beauty of multicultural celebrations.
- Engage in folk dance movements and rhythm patterns.

FEATURED HOLIDAYS AT A GLANCE

HOLIDAY	CULTURE / REGION	TRADITIONS
Chanukah	Jewish	Lighting the menorah, dreidel games, songs, and dancing
Christmas	Christian	Caroling, nativity scenes, and gift-giving
Kwanzaa	African American	Seven principles, lighting the kinara, storytelling, and drumming
Día de los Reyes	Latin American / Spanish	Parades, sweet bread (Rosca), and gifts from the Three Kings
Winter Solstice	Global / varied traditions	Longest night celebrations, fire festivals, light, and renewal

PRE-SHOW DISCUSSION

1. What winter holidays or traditions do you celebrate?
2. Why are dance and music used to tell cultural stories?
3. How do different cultures celebrate light and family during winter?
4. What similarities might we find across different celebrations?

One tradition I would like to learn more about:

BE A DANCE DETECTIVE!

During the show, observe the dances closely. Use words or pictures to record what you notice.

HOLIDAY

Which celebration is represented?

MUSIC

What instruments or rhythms do you hear?

COSTUMES

What colors, clothing, or accessories do you notice?

MOVEMENT

Which steps or gestures repeat?

MOOD

Does the dance feel joyful, peaceful, energetic, or solemn?

Try It! Quietly tap the beat, notice a repeated pattern, or join the audience movement when invited.

REFLECT & SHARE

Write or draw your favorite dance or tradition from the show.

MY FAVORITE MOMENT

COMPARE & CONTRAST

Choose two holidays. How are they alike and different?

HOLIDAY 1	BOTH	HOLIDAY 2

MOVEMENT CHALLENGE

Teach a friend or family member one dance movement or rhythm pattern you learned!

VOCABULARY TO KNOW

Folklore	stories and customs passed through generations
Tradition	a celebration or practice repeated within a culture
Multicultural	involving many cultures
Festival	a public celebration with performances and activities

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS MATCH-UP

Write the correct letter beside each holiday.

1. Chanukah ____
2. Kwanzaa ____
3. Winter Solstice ____
4. Christmas ____
5. Día de los Reyes ____

- A. Lighting the kinara
- B. Celebrating the longest night of the year
- C. Lighting the menorah
- D. Three Kings bring gifts
- E. Caroling and nativity plays

MY FAVORITE PART WAS...

Write about a dance, song, or tradition you enjoyed. Begin with: I really liked... It reminded me of... One thing I learned was...

DESIGN A HOLIDAY FESTIVAL POSTER

Imagine you are promoting the next Winter Holiday Folk Dance Festival. Create a colorful poster showing dancers, music, and symbols from at least three celebrations featured in the show.

Poster Checklist: Festival title • At least 3 holiday traditions • Dancers or movement • Music or instruments • Bright colors • A welcoming message

CREATE YOUR POSTER HERE

MOVE • LISTEN • LEARN • CELEBRATE TOGETHER!