



Activity Packet

A collection of resources aligned to the theme of Celebration



This month, enjoy sharing with your students the many different types of celebrations around the world and the diverse reasons people come together to celebrate. From birthdays, which honor individual lives and milestones, to global and cultural festivities like Carnival, Hanukkah, Lunar New Year, and Diwali, each celebration offers a unique window into traditions, values, and community spirit.

This packet includes a:

- Celebration classroom activity
- Celebration home activity
- Celebration recommended booklist

We recommend you print and copy the home activity and recommended book list to send home with your students.

For more reading fun, visit RallytoRead.org.



Theme: Celebration | Classroom Activity

Common Core Standard: CCRA.R.2, CCRA.SL.1 | Social Studies: Culture, Community, Geography

Around The World Show & Tell

Steps

1. Consider sending home the family letter (page 4) along with the optional home activity to help students prepare for show and tell. This activity can support family involvement, but it's not required — all students will have an equal opportunity to participate and share.
2. Invite students to sit in a circle and take turns presenting their special items. If a student did not bring an item, you can help them find an image online or an object in the classroom to use instead. Encourage students to answer these questions:
 - What did you bring for show and tell?
 - How is this item special to you and your family?
 - Tell us the story of how you got this item.
 - Does this item come from a specific place in the world?

Geography Connection

1. After each presentation, help students find the country or region their item relates to on a world map or globe.
2. Place a sticker or marker on that location. This will create a visual map of the class's cultural connections.

Small Group/Individual

1. After all students share have a class discussion using these guiding questions.
 - What are some ways our items are the same or different?
 - What do these items teach us about traditions, values, or ways of life?
 - How do families celebrate, remember, or create together?
2. On chart paper, create a Venn Diagram (next page) or a list of similarities and differences.
3. Discuss how learning about others helps build a stronger and kinder community.



Theme: Celebration | Classroom Activity

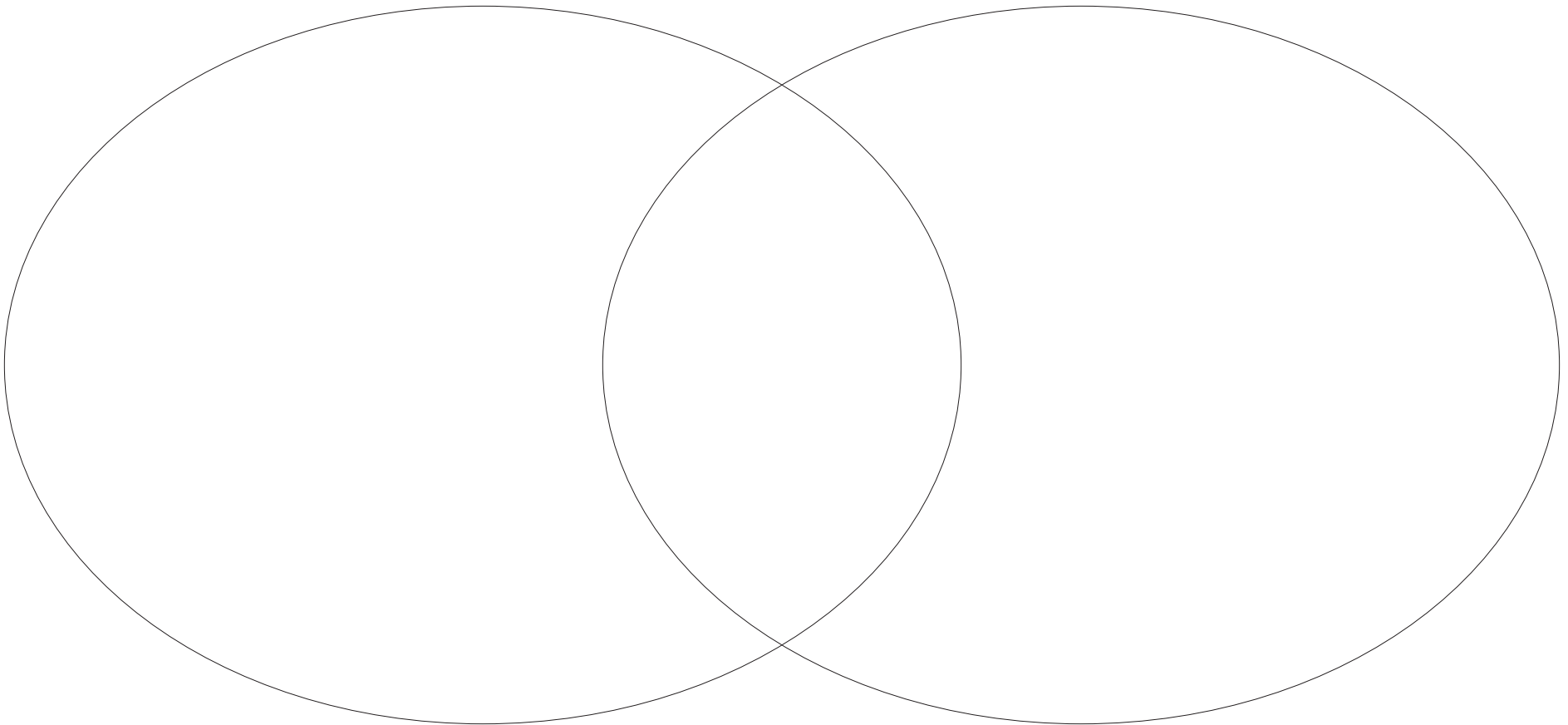
Venn Diagram

Name: _____

Book Title/Topic: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Work with a partner to compare and contrast your items or stories (e.g., cultural item, family traditions). Then, use the Venn diagram to show what is the same and what is different between cultures.





Family Letter

Dear Families,

As part of our Social Studies exploration of cultures and communities, we will be hosting an “Around the World Show & Tell” in class on _____!

We invite your child to bring in an item that is special to your family and/or reflects your cultural background. This could be something like a traditional piece of clothing, a family photo, a book, a small souvenir, music, artwork, or even a favorite recipe (a photo or drawing of it is fine, too).

During our circle time, students will have the chance to share their item and tell us:

- What it is
- Why it’s special to your family
- Where it comes from
- Any story or tradition connected to it

We will also mark where these items are from on a world map and talk about how our classroom community connects to many different places and traditions.

Please help your child choose and bring their item to school by _____.
If the item is too valuable or fragile, a photo or drawing is a great substitute.

Thank you for supporting this meaningful activity as we learn more about the people and cultures that make up our world—and our classroom!

Warmly,



Theme: Celebration | Home Activity

Our class is learning about celebrations with literacy resources from Reading Is Fundamental (RIF). To deepen their understanding of this concept, we are providing an activity that you can complete with your child at home.

The Story of Our Special Item

Steps

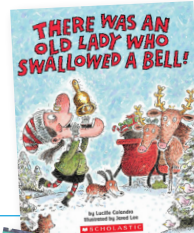
1. Spend some time with your child talking about a meaningful item from your home or family life. Use the guiding questions below to help spark a rich conversation about its personal or cultural significance:
 - What is this item?
 - Where does it come from?
 - Who gave it to us, or how did we get it?
 - Why is it special to our family?
 - Is there a celebration, tradition, or memory connected to it?
2. Together, look for the country or region on a map that the item comes from or is connected to. Talk about its location and how it relates to where you live now.
3. Take time to reflect and share stories. If your child would like, they can tell the story of this item to a sibling, friend, or another family member. Celebrate the memories and meaning that make this item special to your family.

Reading Is Fundamental has curated a list of books to help children further explore the theme of Celebration. Use this recommended book list to help your students/children continue their discovery about this topic in school and at home. For additional activities for the books listed, please visit RIF.org/Literacy-Central/Collections/Rally-Read-Celebration-Collection. **View read-alouds of titles in blue on RallytoRead.org this month.**



The Nutcracker

Author & Illustrator: Jan Brett
Grades: PK-3



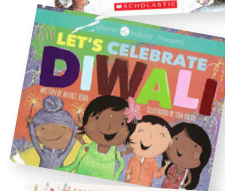
There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bell!

Author: Lucille Colandro
Illustrator: Jared Lee
Grades: PK-3



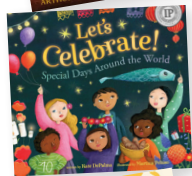
The Hanukkah Magic of Nate Gadol

Author: Arthur A. Levine
Illustrator: Kevin Hawkes
Grades: PK-3



Let's Celebrate Diwali

Author: Anjali Joshi
Illustrator: Tim Palin
Grades: K-2



Let's Celebrate! Special Days Around the World

Author: Kate DePalma
Illustrator: Martina Peluso
Grades: PK-5



Lunar New Year (Celebrate the World)

Author: Hannah Eliot
Illustrator: Alina Chau
Grades: K-3



To Carnival! A Celebration in Saint Lucia

Author: Baptiste Paul
Illustrator: Jana Glatt
Grades: PK-5



The Puppy Who Wanted a Boy

Author: Jane Thayer
Illustrator: Lisa McCue
Grades: PK-2



The Birthday Swap

Author & Illustrator: Loretta Lopez
Grades: K-3



Hooray for the Holidays (Kindergarten Kids)

Author: Catherine Hapka
Illustrator: Mike Byrne
Grades: PK-K

BARNES & NOBLE

Storytime Pick



Yay!

Author: Jessica Kulekjian
Illustrator: Zara González Hoang
Grades: PK-1

Celebration Book Discussion Questions

1. What was being celebrated in this book and how did the characters celebrate?
2. What special or favorite celebrations do you have with family or friends throughout the year?
3. Why do you think celebrations are important?
4. What things, like food or music, do you think celebrations must always include?
5. If you could make up a new celebration, what would it be for and how would you celebrate?