Traditions

Traditions help us mark and celebrate life’s major moments and, sometimes, help make regular moments special. From celebrating holidays to acknowledging the significance of a lost tooth to enjoying lazy Sunday mornings, traditions help us feel grounded and connected.

This activity packet includes a selection of resources for educators, parents/caregivers, and students.

- **Booklist**: A recommended list of books about traditions.
- **Puzzles and Activities for Students**: Resources about traditions designed for independent student use.
- **Take-Home Activity**: An activity about traditions designed to help students continue learning at home.
- **Classroom Activity**: An activity about traditions designed for the classroom.

We suggest you print and copy the *Take-Home Activity* and *Puzzles and Activities for Students* pages and send them home to extend the learning.

For more reading resources, visit [www.RIF.org/Literacy-Central](http://www.RIF.org/Literacy-Central).

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Traditions Book List

Recommended Books

Hooray for the Holidays!
Author: Catherine Hapka
Illustrator: Mike Byrne
PK-K

Too Many Tamales
Author: Gary Soto
Illustrator: Ed Martinez
PK-3

Throw Your Tooth on the Roof
Author: Selby B. Beeler
Illustrator: G. Brian Karas
PK-2

Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding
Author: Lenore Look
Illustrator: Yumi Heo
PK-3

The Birthday Swap
Author and Illustrator: Loretta Lopez
PK-3

Under the Milky Way: Traditions and Celebrations Beneath the Stars
Author and Illustrator: Frané Lessac
PK-3

¡Fiesta!
Author: Ginger Foglesong Guy
Illustrator: René King Moreno
PK-3

Tea Cakes for Tosh
Author: Kelly Starling Lyons
Illustrator: E.B. Lewis
K-3

Powwow's Coming
Author and Illustrator: Linda Boyden
PK-3

Fireside Stories
Author: Caitlin Matthews
Illustrator: Helen Cann
1-6
Mystery Word Decoder

A = 🌻  B = 🌺  H = 🌒  G = 🌸
L = 🌻  N = 🌺  O = 🌻  S = 🌒  T = 🌸
Memory Match

Cut along the lines to create vocabulary cards. Then, mix them up and turn them over. Flip two cards at a time, using your memory to try to find word pairs. Use each page separately for an easier version, or put all the cards together for a bigger challenge.

holiday  holiday

celebration  celebration

customs  customs

culture  culture

lights  lights

decorations  decorations
Memory Match

Cut along the lines to create vocabulary cards. Then, mix them up and turn them over.
Flip two cards at a time, using your memory to try to find word pairs. Use each page separately for an easier version, or put all the cards together for a bigger challenge.

- gifts
- birthday
- balloons
- ceremony
- annual
- family

- gifts
- birthday
- balloons
- ceremony
- annual
- family
Crossword Puzzle (easier)

Name: ___________________________ Date: ______________________

Answer clues based on the content and vocabulary words for the topic of Traditions. Look for hints in the Word Bank.

Across

5. ___ are special events & occasions passed down from generation to generation.
6. ___ are a beautiful part of any celebration, and they smell good, too!
8. What birthday ___ do you like to receive?

Down

1. ___ are a traditional part of a wedding.
2. Do you have a favorite ___, like Valentine's Day or the 4th of July?
3. Do you have any favorite family cookie ___?
4. ___ can be a colorful & fun part of any celebration!
7. The ___ of the winter holidays twinkle brightly.

Word Bank

TRADITIONS  HOLIDAY  LIGHTS  GIFTS
BALLOONS  FLOWERS  RINGS  RECIPES
Crossword Puzzle (harder)

Name: ___________________________ Date: ______________________

Answer clues based on the content and vocabulary words for the topic of Traditions. Look for hints in the Word Bank.

Across
5. ___ celebrations often bring together several generations.
6. ___ are a beautiful part of a wedding, and smell good, too!
8. Do you have plans for your birthday ___?
9. ___ are handed down from generation to generation.
10. How do you celebrate your ___ each year?
11. Valentine’s Day and the 4th of July are examples of a ___.
12. Another term for traditions.

Down
1. Family ___ are often shared among relatives.
2. Another term for yearly.
3. Traditions & customs are part are part of a ___.
4. A marriage begins with a ___.
7. Celebrations should have ___!

Word Bank
TRADITIONS  CUSTOMS
CULTURE  WEDDING
FLOWERS  ANNUAL
HOLIDAY  CELEBRATION
DECORATIONS  BIRTHDAY
RECIPES  FAMILY

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8
Word Search (harder)

Find the words in the list below.

R W T M B F R B S O P C
D E C O R A T I O N S A
O D F A M I L Y D S C N
R D J F V C W L H K P N
S I I L A R U H O I L U
E N H O W F E S A O V A
N G O W C A G C T W N L
C E L E B R A T I O N S
Y B I R T H D A Y Y P M R
N B D S C U L T U R E S
T R A D I T I O N S B S
O N Y M C E R E M O N Y

Word Bank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRADITIONS</th>
<th>HOLIDAY</th>
<th>CELEBRATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>CUSTOMS</td>
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<td>FLOWERS</td>
<td>CEREMONY</td>
<td>RECIPES</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAMILY</td>
<td>ANNUAL</td>
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Word Search (easier)

Find the words in the list below.

F T R I N G S F B E  
A R D H B I R M A R
M A M M R F I U L W
I D Y D T T V V L E
L I G H T S W N O D
Y T A A M Y R L O D
B I R T H D A Y N I
A O M S Y M U K S N
R N F L O W E R S G
N S K P G A J G K G

Word Bank

TRADITIONS  LIGHTS  GIFTS
BIRTHDAY  BALLOONS  HATS
WEDDING  FLOWERS  RINGS
FAMILY
Take-Home Activity

Family Traditions

Your child has been learning about traditions at school and this activity is designed to extend the learning at home.

This activity provides a way to talk about family bonds, rituals, and traditions. It is a list of sentence starters for you to discuss and complete with your child.

**STEPS:**
1. Use this page to record the special and specific things your family does consistently (or traditionally). Your answers will likely be serious and silly, small and big. For example...
   a. In this family, we set the table together every weeknight.
   b. In this family, we write each other Valentine cards every February 14th.
   c. In this family, we eat ice cream on the first day of summer.
   d. In this family, we ______.

2. Talk with your child about your list and whether there is anything they'd like to add, perhaps a new tradition to establish.

3. Continue your conversation with your child about what tradition means in your household.

   In this family, we ________________________________

   In this family, we ________________________________

   In this family, we ________________________________

   In this family, we ________________________________

   In this family, we ________________________________

   In this family, we ________________________________

   In this family, we ________________________________

   In this family, we ________________________________
Classroom Activity
A New Class Tradition

For the following activity, students should have read and discussed several books that include at least one notable tradition, each. Note that this is a whole class activity, although some steps can be completed independently, in pairs, or in small groups.

**STEPS**

1. Tell the class you will allow them to design a new tradition for your classroom. (Given that an annual tradition may only apply to these students once, consider a monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual tradition.) Present your own parameters for the new tradition at the outset.

2. Talk about the meaning and significance of traditions, using the books you’ve read as a class as a foundation for discussion. Consider posing the following questions.
   a. What are some reasons to establish a tradition (i.e., what did the traditions you read about mark, why did the people have them)?
   b. What makes a good tradition (i.e., what were the best parts of the traditions you read about)?

3. Have the students brainstorm what occasions you could mark with a classroom tradition. (The list might include the first day of a new quarter, the birthday of the namesake of your school, the day before exams, etc.)

4. Use secret voting to select an occasion from the list that you will mark with your new tradition.

5. Have students work in 3 groups to come up with 3 aspects of the new tradition. If your parameters allow for it, give each group a focus (e.g., music, activity, art, gifting).

6. Review the final results and agree to incorporate the tradition during the school year. For example, you might wind up with something like this: On the day before exams, in this classroom, we listen to dance music, make good luck cards, and exchange them with each other.
ANSWER KEYS
Mystery Word Decoder

H A T S

S O N G S

B A L L O O N S

A = 🌻   B = 🌹   H = 🌞   G = 🌷
L = 🌸   N = 🌿   O = 🌿   S = 🌿   T = 🌿

Powered by Reading Is Fundamental until every child reads
Key: Word Search (easier)

Key: Word Search (harder)
Key: Crossword Puzzle (easier)

Key: Crossword Puzzle (harder)