

WORLD CLASS

Project plan: Beliefs and traditions



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"Put your school on the map"

Beliefs and Traditions

A Local Festival:

Draw pictures and write descriptions for your twin showing and telling them about important festivals or celebrations in your local area or country.

How your pupils can benefit from this project:

A local festival is designed to help your students to discover more about customs and traditions that the pupils in your school take part in. During Stage 1 of the project they will:

- investigate festivals in your local area or in your country
- find out more about the beliefs behind the festival
- describe and draw/photograph/video the things they find out about

In Stage 2 of the project they will:

- learn about some of the traditions and customs in your twin school
- describe any similarities and differences between beliefs and customs

Age group: 9-11

Curriculum areas: Art, literacy

Language required: describing the world around us; describing similarities and differences

STAGE 1:

Preparation:

- Prepare some questions for your pupils to answer to help them to describe a festival or custom in your town, local area or country as a whole. If you have the resources, you could make the questions into a worksheet. (For an example see the worksheet on page 5).

Procedure:

1. Ask the pupils to think of any customs and traditions that they follow at certain times of year. Make a list of the pupils' ideas on the board. If they find it difficult to think of many, you may need to help them with ideas.
2. Choose one of the festivals as an example and ask the pupils to talk about the questions you have prepared to help them with the next stages.
3. Now ask the pupils to work in pairs to answer the same questions about another festival or custom. You may want all your pupils to work on the same custom or festival or they could work on a variety. The pupils will need to write their ideas down at this stage. If it is appropriate, pupils can research any ideas in resource books or on the internet.
4. Once the pupils have answered all the questions move them into small groups to show each other the work they have done.
5. Ask the children to use clean sheets of paper and to write a description of the festival using the ideas from the previous stages. They can then decorate these with pictures or drawings which describe the event. At this stage they can write their ideas as a complete paragraph if they are able to.

Stage 2:

a) Your project in your twin school: Make a wall display

The aim of this stage is to help the children at your twin school to understand as much as possible about the festivals and customs in your town or country and to make a wall display. To help them achieve this:

- Send copies of the descriptions and drawings that the pupils have made
- You may also need to send a little more information about the different festivals to help the teacher in your twin to explain them to the pupils
- Ask the pupils at your twin school to read about the different customs and festivals and to decide which one they would most like to go to and why. If only one festival has been described, ask the pupils to think about what they most like about it e.g. the food, the colours, the dancing.

b) Your twin's project in your school

Make a wall display of the descriptions and drawings that your twin has sent. If possible do this at the right time of year i.e. when the festival is actually taking place in your twin school. When the children have read the wall display ask them to think about whether there are any similarities between the customs in their school and their twin's e.g. we eat special foods, we play music, we light candles etc. If they have found interesting and unusual things, they might want to ask their twin some questions. Make a list of the questions and send them to your twin.

Adaptations:

Younger age groups:

- The class can work together on describing the same festival so that you can help more easily with language and ideas. You will also need to write the descriptions to accompany the pictures which the children draw.

Using technology: If you have the resources you could:

- create a video or take photographs of the event to be included with the materials sent to your twin. The children then match what they see with the written descriptions they have been sent.
- ask the pupils to find out more about the festivals they are working on by searching on the internet.

Worksheet

Beliefs and Traditions

1. What is the name of the festival?

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2. When is it? (i.e. which date or month)

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3. What do you do? e.g. do you go to church, have a parade in the street, dance?)

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4. Do you eat any special food?

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5. Do you wear any special clothes?

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6. Is there anything else that is important about this festival?

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