



## **A World of Celebrations: A Collaborative Global Literacy Project**

**Objective:** To enrich students' knowledge of other cultures and to increase their pride in their own heritages by having them share stories of the ways in which their families celebrate holidays.

**Materials:** *Mirror* by Jeannie Baker  
planning sheets—1 per student (attached)  
final story sheets—1 per student (attached)  
12" x 18" colored paper, 1 sheet (for book cover)  
3-hole-punched 8 ½" x 11" sheets of colored paper (one per student)  
thin ribbon for binding finished book  
art supplies for illustrating book

### **Activities:**

Share the book *Mirror* with students. *Mirror* consists of the parallel stories of a family in Australia and a family in Morocco, illustrating the daily life of each. Engage students in discussion of the differences and similarities they see between the two stories. How are the two families similar and different from each other? How do the rhythms of their days, the things they see, the things they do, the moments they share, differ from each other?

Tell students that they are going to create their own book based on the concept of *Mirror*; their book's title will be *A World of Celebrations*. With the stories they create, they will be the teachers—they'll be teaching other students about the holiday traditions of their families. If your students are participating in an international collaboration, their book will resemble *Mirror* in that their stories will be bound on one side and their international partners' stories will be bound on the other. If you're doing this activity to celebrate the heritages of your students without connecting them to an overseas group, you will bind their different heritages side by side in your book (for example, a Columbian celebration might face a Norwegian one).

Assign a holiday to each student, or let them choose the holiday they want to write about. Especially if you're doing an international collaboration, it would be nice to include all the holidays we celebrate—New Year's, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day, etc.—as well as the cultural and religious holidays that your students celebrate with their families. This would provide a fuller picture of "holidays in America" for your international partners. Remember—your students are the teachers here!

Have students use the guiding questions on the planning sheet to reflect and write about how they celebrate their chosen holiday. Once they've answered all the questions, guide them in using their answers to craft a brief narrative about how their family celebrates the holiday. After revising and proofreading, have them copy their narrative onto the final story sheet and paste it at the bottom of the 8 ½" x 11" paper that they'll use in the next step. Have them title it with the name of the holiday and the culture they're illustrating (My Mexican Celebration of Christmas; My American Celebration of Independence Day).

Above their narrative, students will create an illustration for their holiday. Help them decide what elements to include—will they draw and label the food they eat with their families? Will they illustrate a Christmas tree or a menorah or a scene of Independence Day fireworks? These illustrations can be as simple or elaborate as you like, from colorful drawings to photo collages to pop-up figures or anything in between. Let your own skills and interests guide you here.

Using the large piece of colored paper, create a cover/back cover for your book. The cover can be created by you, or you can assign it to one of your students. Lay this sheet down with the cover image face down (as if you've opened a book). Three-hole punch this sheet on its right side and its left side (where you will bind two sets of stories to face each other, as in *Mirror*).

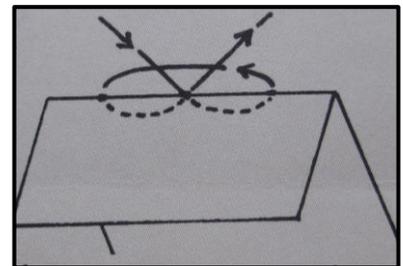
Gather the story sheets into two piles; these will take the position of the parallel stories in *Mirror*. Again, if you're doing an international collaboration, exchange scans or photos of each story page with your international teaching partner. Print the photos you receive onto 3-hole punched, 8 ½" x 11" paper. Put your students' stories in one pile and the photos of the other group's stories in the other.

Using a simple ribbon binding technique (see attached instructions), bind the first group of stories to the left edge of the large paper; bind the other group to the right edge. Fold the large paper in half to bring the stories together, as with *Mirror*.

If you have created this book with an international group, you're now holding a truly collaborative work. It took both groups, in both countries, to put this together. If you have done this just with your own students, you have an equally lovely book that celebrates and teaches about their varied family heritages.

## Simple 3-Hole Ribbon Binding

1. Punch three holes in the edge of your book cover.
2. Feed about 2 feet of ribbon through center hole, from the outside to the inside, leaving at least a 4" tail on the outside of the spine.
3. Feed ribbon through the top hole from the inside to the outside.
4. Feed ribbon through the bottom hole from the outside to the inside.
5. Feed ribbon back out through the center hole (where you started) to the outside. You may have to hold the "tail" to one side to get through the hole again.
6. Tie off the two tails of the ribbon on the outside of the spine, knot and trim.



## Planning My Celebration Project!

The holiday celebration I am teaching about is \_\_\_\_\_.

I usually spend this holiday with these people.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

We celebrate the holiday at this place: \_\_\_\_\_

These are some of the special foods we eat on this day:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

These are some of the things we do on this day:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

I am \_\_\_\_\_ My holiday is: \_\_\_\_\_

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