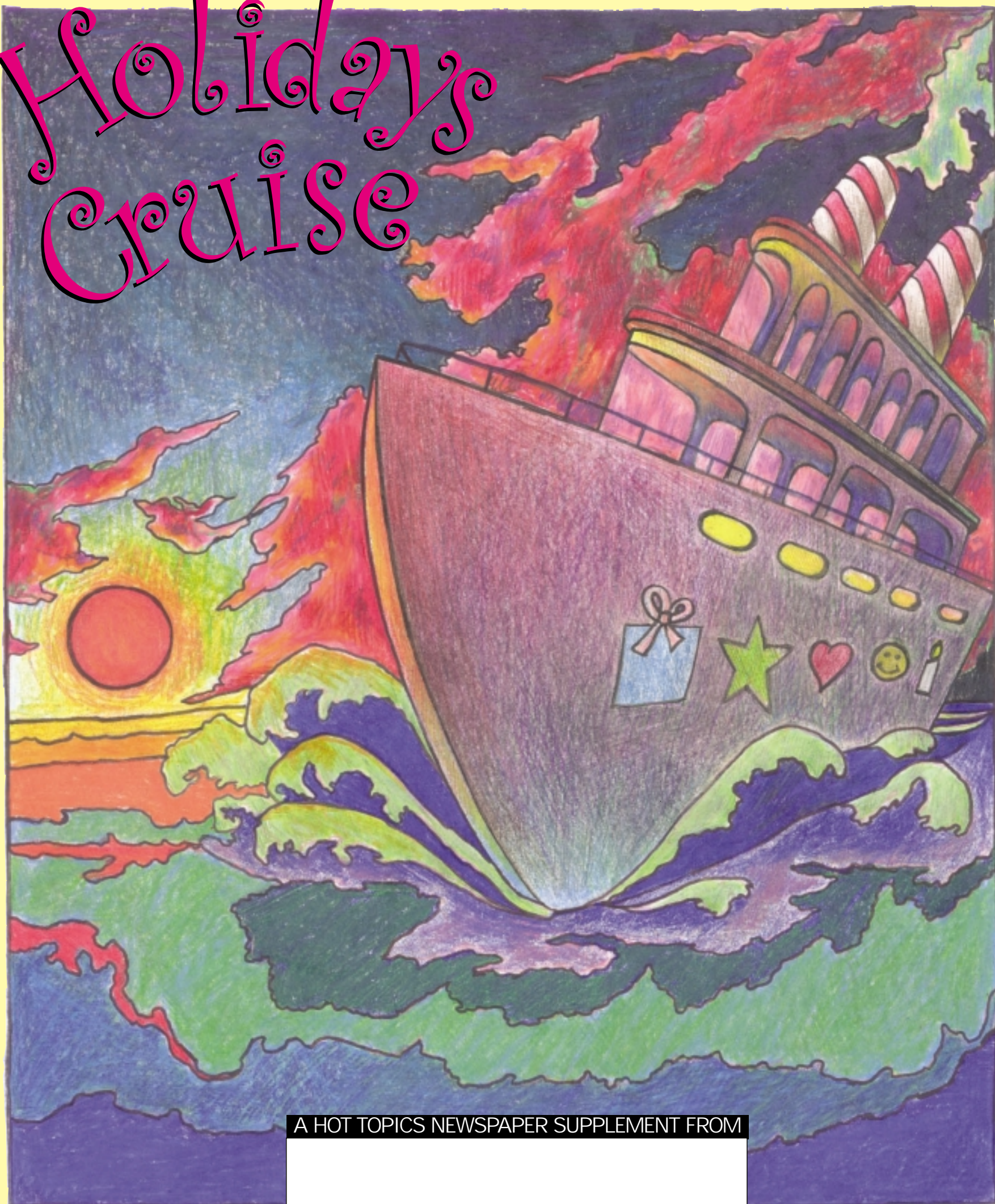


# Holidays Cruise



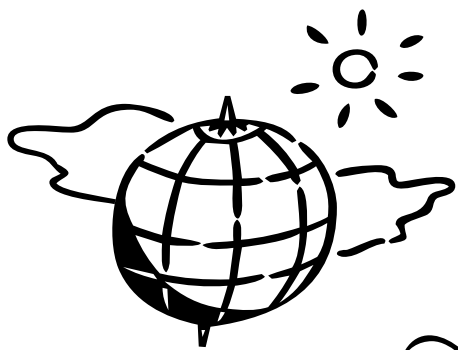
A HOT TOPICS NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENT FROM



# Holidays Cruise

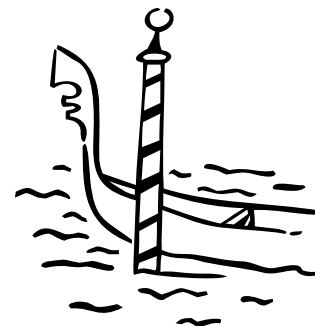
Imagine that you are sailing the oceans of the world. You pass different countries. You see lots of people. And everywhere you go, you see holiday celebrations. People around the globe come in lots of shapes and sizes and colors of the rainbow. But they all love holidays.

So come along with us. We're going on a holidays cruise.

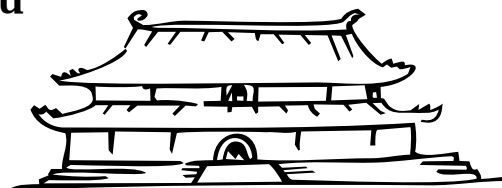


## Rhyme Time

The oceans of the world  
Are big and blue.  
Our holiday ship  
Is waiting for you



Come aboard!



As we sail around the world, we'll learn about holidays. We can't cover all the holidays in just a few pages, so we'll pick some that you may have heard of and some that you don't know about but soon will. What's your favorite holiday?

Think you know a lot about holidays? Just for fun, here are some questions about the holidays. Write your answers in complete sentences on another sheet of paper. Then, after you've read this newspaper section, take the test again on page 15. You'll be surprised at how much you've learned. Don't worry if you get some of these answers wrong. Soon, you'll know lots more about holidays!

1. Where in the world is Diwali celebrated?
2. Which color is considered lucky in Vietnam – red, blue, or gold?
3. Name one piece of good news about Cinco de Mayo.
4. Name one holiday celebrating the harvest.
5. How long do Muslims fast for Ramadan?
6. What is the Jewish Festival of Lights called?
7. What kind of weather was it when the Christmas carol "Stille Nacht" was written?
8. For which holiday do people set off fireworks to scare off evil spirits?
9. When is Independence Day celebrated in America?
10. Why are the Vietnamese New Year and Chinese New Year so much alike?

# Celebrate Freedom and Independence

Our cruise starts in America. You probably know that the United States celebrates independence on July 4. That marks the date in 1776 when the United States broke free from British rule. America is one of many countries with a holiday about freedom.



Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire)



Peru



Turkey



## Cinco de Mayo

Our next stop is just south of the United States – in Mexico. Lots of people think Cinco de Mayo, the Fifth of May, is Mexican Independence Day. It's not. That's September 16. You might say that Cinco de Mayo is a story of good news and bad news for the Mexicans. It's the day in 1862 when the Mexicans battled the French army and won.

Good news: It happened at a time when Mexico won its freedom from Spain. Bad news: The country owed money to lots of other countries, including France. When Mexico didn't pay up, France decided to attack. Good news: A Mexican army of just 4,500 people was able to beat the 6,500 French soldiers. Bad news: France later sent many more soldiers, and that country was able to take over and rule Mexico for three years. Good news: The French were put out forever by the brave actions of Mexicans and Americans fighting together.

It ends with good news as Cinco de Mayo is remembered as a day of great honor and victory for Mexico. The United States and Mexico are good neighbors and good friends. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in Mexico and in many parts of the United States. It's a festival of Mexican culture, food, and music – and a great reason for a party celebrating freedom, liberty, and countries working together. That's really good news.

**News Cruise**

Learning standard: analyzing democracy

## Where in the World

Across the Atlantic Ocean, in Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) saw many of its people give up their lives in the struggle for freedom from Belgium. That country celebrates Memorial Day with parties and parades each year on June 24.

In Turkey, offices and schools close on October 29 so that the Turkish people can celebrate their freedom. They carry flags and torches and sing patriotic songs.

On Independence Day in Peru, that country's people celebrate their freedom from Spanish rule. This holiday is so important that it gets two days – July 28 and 29.

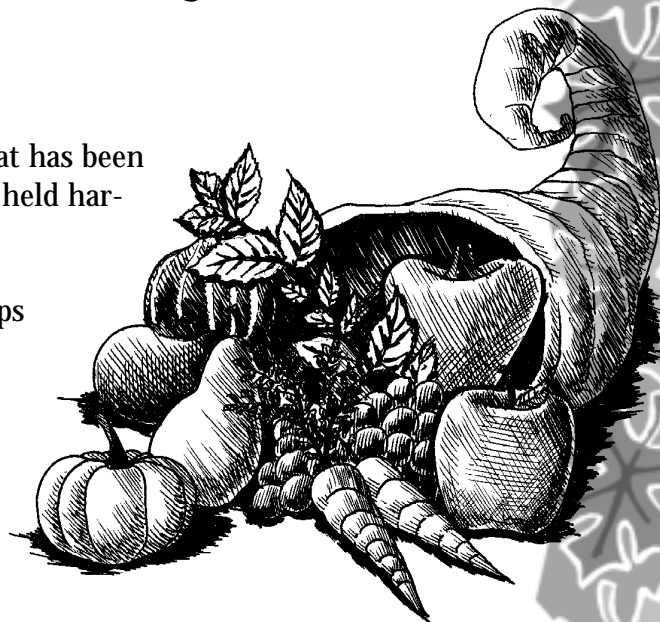
Find each of these countries on a map. Write the names of each country they touch.

Find a story in the newspaper that is about life in a free country. Write a paragraph telling why it is good to be free.

# Harvest Holidays

## Celebrating What We Sow

Since ancient days, people have celebrated the joy of gathering what has been grown – the harvest. Greeks, Romans, Jews, Egyptians, and others held harvest festivals. The best-known celebration of the harvest may be Thanksgiving. It is not part of any religion, but it is celebrated by many Americans. In 1621, the Pilgrims were thrilled when the crops they planted in their new homeland grew so plentifully that they would produce enough to see them through the coming winter. They decided to have a feast to give thanks and to invite their neighbors, the American Indians. Later, in 1863, Abraham Lincoln declared a national day of thanksgiving, and we now celebrate it each year on the fourth Thursday in November.



## RWL About Kwanzaa

**What Do You Know? What Do You Want To Know? What Have You Learned?**

Write two things you know about Kwanzaa.

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What two things you want to know.

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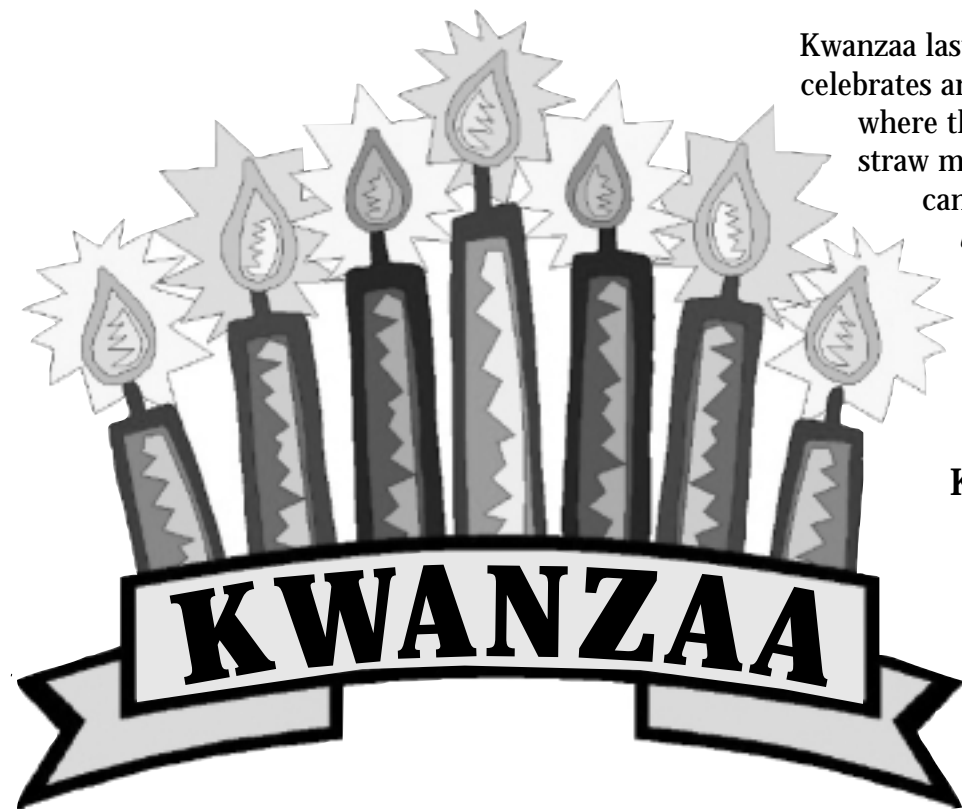
After you've read this section, write two things you learned about this holiday.

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We sail past Africa. Kwanzaa is not celebrated there, but it is based on some African ideas. You might think that all holidays have been around since ancient times. That's not always true. Holidays, like people, grow and change as times change. So it is with Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa, not tied to any religion, was created in 1966 by Dr. Moulana "Ron" Karenga to bring African Americans together in a celebration of unity and pride. This was during the civil-rights movement, when many people were working for equal rights for all.

Try the Kwanzaa greeting, "Habari gani?" Swahili for "What is the news?" and get ready to join in the fun of this wonderful holiday.



Kwanzaa lasts for seven days, from December 26 through January 1. Each day celebrates an idea or principle. The person in charge might gather the family where the symbols of the holiday have been placed. Those are *Mkeka*, a straw mat; the *Kinara*, a 7-candle candlestick with red, black, and green candles; ears of corn for each child; *Zawadi*, gifts; *Kikombe Cha Umaja*, unity cup; *Tambiko*, soil and water; and a basket of fruit. The leader then says, “*Habari gani?*” Family members might reply each day with the principle of the day.

The seven principles are:

**Umoja** (oo-MOH-jah): unity.

**Kujichagulia** (koo-jee-cha-goo-LEE-uh): control of your life.

**Ujima** (oo-jee-MAH): working together and responsibility.

**Ujamaa** (oo-jah-MAH): sharing money.

**Nia** (NEE-ah): having a purpose or reason.

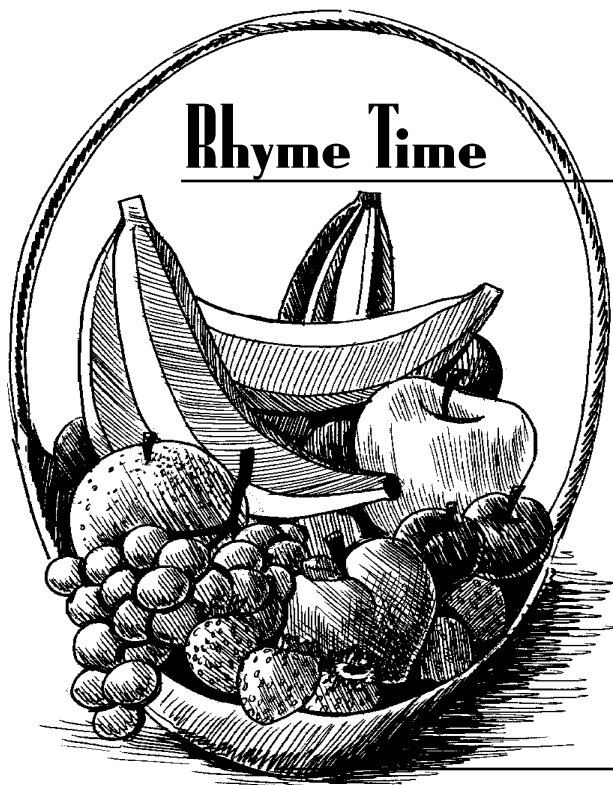
**Kuumba** (koo-UM-bah): creativity.

**Imani** (ee-MAH-nee): faith.

On each day of the holiday, family members may talk about that day’s principle and how they are making it a part of their lives. They might also share stories and prayers and light the candles or exchange gifts that they have made for each other.

## Math on Deck

Kwanzaa has 7 principles and 7 days. Write out the multiplication table for 7, then circle the number 7 in the newspaper 7 times.



## Rhyme Time

*Kwanzaa means  
“first fruits” in Swahili.*

*The holiday begins by  
asking Habari Gani?*

*Each day a new principle,  
and a candle they light*

*Helping African American  
families to love and  
stay tight.*

## Where in the World

Some African Americans celebrate Kwanzaa. What does it mean to be an African American? Find Africa on a world map. After you’ve found that continent, find the names of at least three countries in Africa.

Jewish people have two holidays about harvest. The one in the fall is Succoth. The other, Shavuot, takes place during May or June. Shavuot celebrates harvest season in Israel. It also marks the time when it is believed that the Ten Commandments were given to Moses. Can you find Israel on the world map?

Chusok is the Korean festival of Thanksgiving, during the middle of August. Pongal is the Indian one, held each year on January 14. Can you find Korea and India on a map?

## News Cruise

Learning standards: reasoning, skimming

See if you can find something in the newspaper – a word or picture – to represent each of the seven principles. Make a collage about Kwanzaa.



# Holidays of Holy Words

## Know, Want to Know, What You Learned

Write one thing you know about Muslims who celebrate Ramadan.

Write one thing you want to know.

After you've read this section, write one thing you've learned.

## Ramadan

Ramadan is an important time in the Muslim religion of Islam – so important that for a full month, Muslims do not eat or drink from dawn until sunset. Because the Islamic calendar is lunar, ruled by the moon, Ramadan falls at different times of the year. Muslims celebrate Ramadan as the month during which the prophet Muhammad received the first of the words that make up the Koran, the holy book of Islam. At the end of the month, they celebrate with a great festival.



## Shavuot

While the Jewish holiday of Shavuot is a harvest festival, it is also a time when Jews mark the day when God gave them the Ten Commandments. Jewish people believe that after the Jews fled slavery in Egypt, they wandered the desert. They followed their leader, Moses, to the foot of Mt. Sinai. Moses climbed the mountain and God gave him stone tablets on which were carved 10 rules.

1. I am the lord, your God.
2. You shall have no other god but me.
3. You shall not take the name of your Lord in vain.
4. You shall remember and keep the Sabbath day holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Note: These are the Ten Commandments as Jews see them. Different religions may see them in other ways.

## Think about it

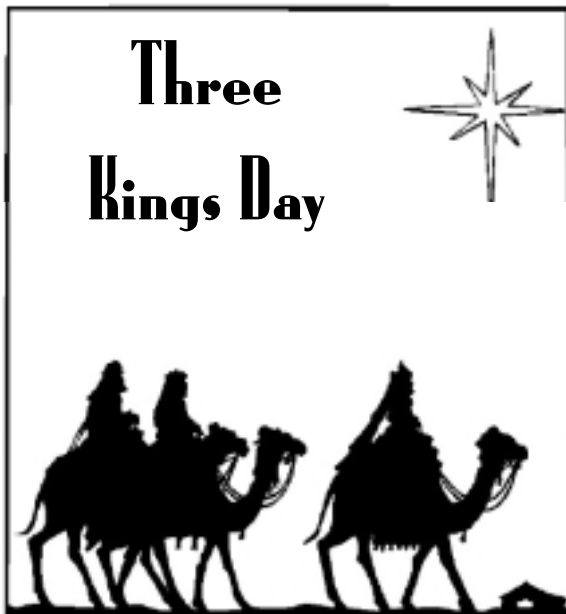
Which of these rules do you believe are good for everyone to follow? Can you come up with 10 rules for your classroom that everyone can agree to obey?

Learning standard: developing personal integrity

## News Cruise

While these two holidays are about holy words, here is a thought for you to talk about. Buddha, the spiritual leader and teacher who founded Buddhism, another religion, said this about holy words: "However many holy words you read, however many you speak, what good will they do you if you do not act on upon them?" Can you find someone in the newspaper who is acting on good will? Write about the person you found and then write about a time you acted with good will.

# Holidays of Holy Times



The day of the Three Kings, also known as Epiphany, is January 6. According to the legend, the three kings, also known as the three wise men, saw a bright star in the sky on the night that Jesus Christ was born. They followed it to the city of Bethlehem where they saw the Christ child and gave him gifts.

As our holiday cruise sails past Puerto Rico, we can see the holiday celebrated as it is in much of Latin America. There are house parties everywhere. The sounds of Christmas music float through the air along with the smells of holiday food. Delicious dishes like Arroz con Gandules (a rice and vegetable meal) abound on holiday tables.

We sail on to Mexico, where on January 5, children leave their shoes by the door. They hope to find fruits, candy, and trinkets the next morning, left for them by the three Wise Men. Presents are given on this day rather than on Christmas Day. Mexican families get together to enjoy the delicious Rosca de Reyes, the cake of the kings.

## Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday." Want to guess the day of the week on which it is celebrated?



In New Orleans, where Mardi Gras is based on the carnival holidays from Spain and France as well as on the African culture's tradition of festivals with the arts, the carnival season begins with the Epiphany on January 6 and goes until Ash Wednesday, about a month later. The "Fat Tuesday" or Mardi Gras is the day just before Ash Wednesday. During the 12 days just before Mardi Gras, New Orleans presents more than 60 parades and hundreds of parties. The music and merriment are everywhere.

Here's how it started: Long ago, the ancient Romans celebrated holidays in February that were like carnivals or circuses. When the Romans changed their religion to Christianity, the leaders decided that they should keep some of those holidays. Mardi Gras is one of those.

Mardi Gras comes right before the days known as Lent. Lent (which comes from the word lente, meaning springtime) was a tradition in the Christian world that has been around since the 4th century. It is traditional during the 40 days of Lent for people to give up certain things that they like. For example, many people will not eat meat during this period, but in modern times, some people choose other things to give up for Lent. Mardi Gras has become a huge carnival-like party just before Lent. In fact, the word "carnival" comes from an old Italian word that means "going without meat." Festivals like Mardi Gras became popular as people got ready to give up meat for Lent. In modern times, Lent is observed mostly by people of the Catholic religion, but everyone loves the party that is Mardi Gras.

The date of the holiday is different each year but it is always 47 days before Easter Sunday.

## Math on Deck

Here are the ingredients for Arroz con Gandules. The recipe serves 12 people. Imagine that you live in New Orleans and you are cooking for 72 people. Do the math to figure out how much of each ingredient you need.

- 2 green bell peppers, diced
- 1 onion, chopped
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 bunch cilantro, finely chopped



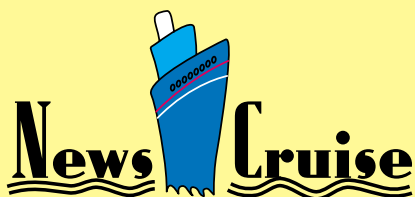
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 package (0.25 ounces) Spanish seasoning
- 3 cups uncooked brown rice
- 2 cans (15 ounces total) pigeon peas, drained
- 6 cups boiling water

(Check your answers on page 16)

# A World

Use this map to find each of the countries mentioned in this section.

Circle each country as you find it on the map and check it off in the list on the right.



Learning standards: understanding democracy, skimming, map skills

1. In Canada, they've chosen November 11 as Remembrance Day. Although no wars have been fought on Canadian soil, many Canadians traveled to distant lands to fight for freedom while others worked for the war effort at home in factories and service organizations. On Remembrance Day, Canadians recognize the tradition of freedom that these people worked hard to preserve. Can you find a story in the newspaper about someone who is working in some way to help the cause of freedom? Write that person a letter of thanks, showing that you remember their service.

2. This is a world map. Can you find a map somewhere in the newspaper? Find one and write three questions about it for a partner to answer. Then, exchange questions and see if you can answer your partner's questions.





# of Holidays



# Lights, Miracles, Music!

Our cruise sails on to places where holidays are about lights, truth, music, and miracles.

Can you imagine any better reasons to celebrate?

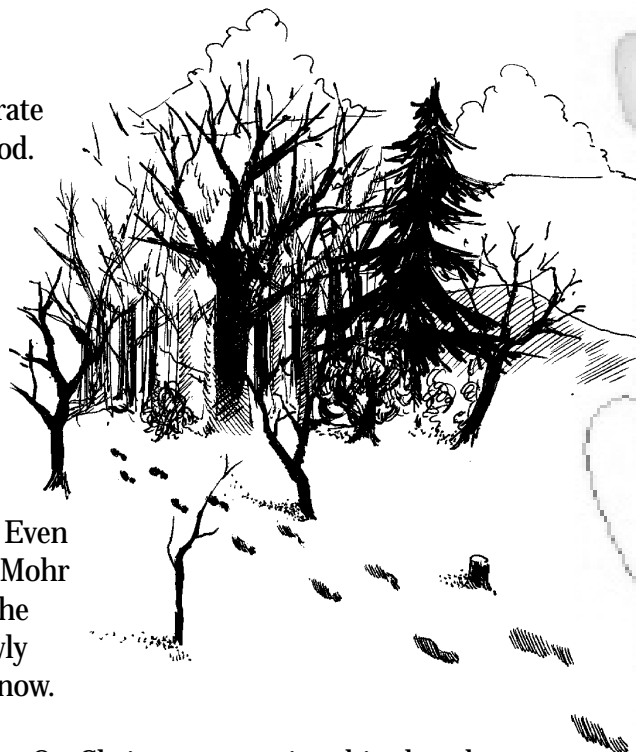
## Christmas

Each year on December 25, Christians all over the world celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ, whom they believe is the son of God.

One of the traditions of Christmas is the singing of carols, or songs. One of the most famous Christmas carols is one that you probably have heard, but you may not know the lovely story of how it came to be.

Our holiday cruise sails on and then we travel over land to Austria. A few days before Christmas in 1818, the pastor of a small church in Obernof found his church organ broken. He was heartbroken that there would be no music for the holiday. Even though he was sad, he still had to do his job. So Pastor Joseph Mohr headed out to bless a newborn baby. It was cold and snowy. As he walked home from the mountain cabin where the baby lay newly blessed, he heard the sound of his own footsteps in the silent snow.

He wrote a poem and asked a musician to put it to guitar music. On Christmas morning, his churchgoers heard the song "Stille Nacht" for the first time. Have you guessed what carol that is? It's "Silent Night."



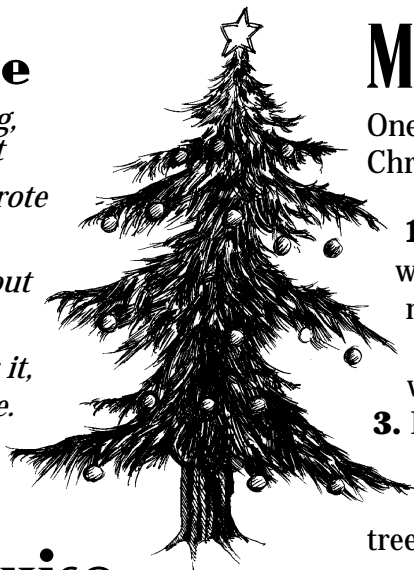
## Rhyme Time

*On a snowy evening,  
with stars for light*

*An Austrian pastor wrote  
"Silent Night."*

*A beautiful song about  
peace and love*

*When next you hear it,  
think of stars above.*



## Math on Deck

One of the traditions at Christmas is the decorating of the Christmas tree. Here are math problems about trees.

1. A Christmas tree farm has planted six rows of trees with 110 trees in each row. Use addition to find out how many trees they have altogether.
2. If a tree grows nine inches each year, how many years will it take for it to reach a height of 6 feet?
3. If on December 23 the trees go on sale at 25 percent off the regular price, how much will a \$75 tree cost? How much will that tree cost on December 24, when trees are 50 percent off? (Check your answers on page 16.)

## News Cruise

Learning standard: locating diverse places and events  
Austria is one of many countries in Europe. Can you find any news from any of the other countries on that continent? Write about why the area is in the news.

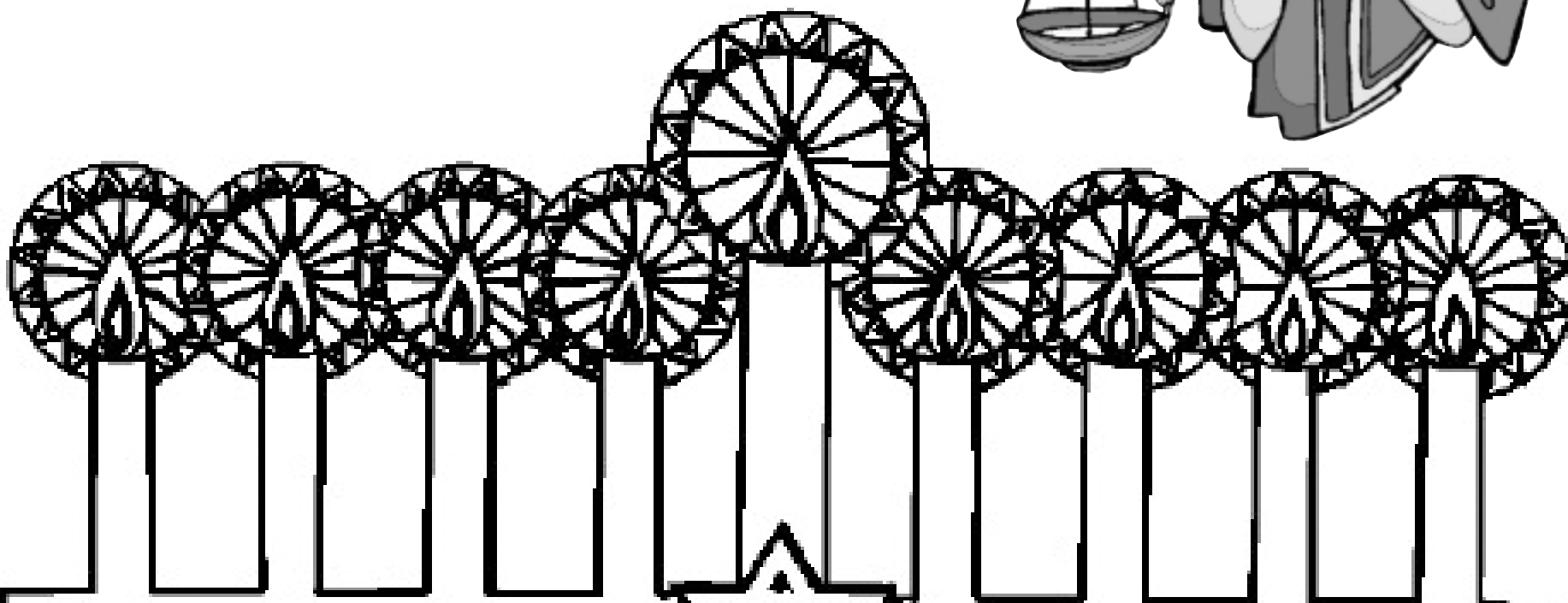
## Where in the World

Look on the map and name all of the countries that border Austria. Go online to find out one fact about each.

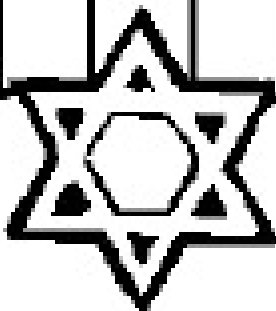
# Diwali .....

The word “Diwali” is made up of two Sanskrit words that mean a row of lights. Light is a huge part of the five-day Hindu festival of Truth and Light. A central belief is that light drives away the darkness of ignorance. That means that learning brings people into the light of knowledge.

All over India and in other countries where Hindus live, families worship, exchange gifts, and share meals. Their homes glow with the twinkling flames of the diyas, which are small clay lamps, or with the sparkle of electric lights hanging in windows. The lights are to welcome Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth and prosperity. It is thought of as a New Year celebration, too. Each of the five days has its own myth or story about it. These wonderful tales can be read online at [www.bawarchi.com/festivals/diwali1.html](http://www.bawarchi.com/festivals/diwali1.html).



## Chanukah



The Jewish celebration of Chanukah is sometimes known as the Festival of Lights or of Dedication. Chanukah means dedication. The story of this holiday is one of bravery and triumph, and, yes, even a miracle. It happened when a small army of Jews was able to beat a much bigger army that had taken over their land. In their temple, they found a small bit of oil to light their holy lamp. It was enough oil to burn for one day. They lit it, but it burned for eight days! Now Jews celebrate Chanukah for eight days. During that time, they light one candle for each day of the holiday. The candleholder is called a menorah. They may also exchange gifts, sing, play games, and eat special foods fried in oil.

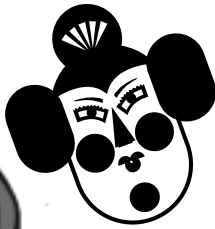
## Rhyme Time

Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry with three lines of verse. The first has five syllables, the second has seven, and the third has five again. The lines don't have to rhyme, but they *are* a poem.

Here's a haiku about holidays of lights. Read it and then write a haiku of your own.

*Lights glow all around.  
Chanukah, Diwali, shine.  
Holidays of light.*

# New Year, New Beginnings

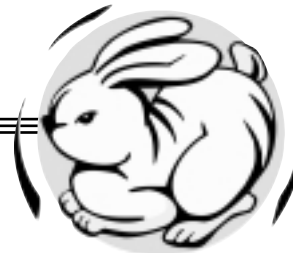


## Vietnamese New Year & Chinese New Year

Tet is short for Tet Nguyen Dan, meaning the first morning of the first day of the new period. It's the beginning of the new year and of Spring. The Vietnamese people base many things on the phases of the moon. Their new year begins on the first night of the first moon after the sun enters Aquarius – some time between January 21 and February 19. Because Vietnam is close to China, the two New Year celebrations are very similar.

Tet lasts three days. The Vietnamese really want to start the new year right, so they consider Tet a very important holiday. They clean, buy new clothes, fix up their homes, cook three days worth of food, pay back money they owe, and try hard to get rid of all bad feelings. Everywhere you look, you see red. The color red stands for good luck and happiness. The people dance the dragon dances and wear lots of red in their costumes.





Chinese New Year happens at the same time of year as Tet. It lasts three to five days. Chinese years are grouped in sets of 12. Each year has an animal symbol (zodiac sign). It is said that a person turns out to be like the animal of the year in which he or she was born. Like the Vietnamese, the Chinese start their year with acts of cleaning and starting fresh.



During Tet, people visit family and friends. According to common belief, if the first visitor is happy, important, or rich, the family will have good luck all year. Visitors end their visit with a good wish for the family. They might say, "I hope that good luck flows into your life like water and out like a turtle."



The Chinese decorate their homes with flowers and paper decorations with wishes of good luck, happiness, good fortune, wealth, and long life. Decorations of the new zodiac animal are also displayed. Red and gold are popular colors – red for luck, gold for wealth.



The Vietnamese honor their dead family members and believe that they will visit for the holiday. They decorate their homes in a welcoming way with pictures of their dead relatives, incense, and flowers.



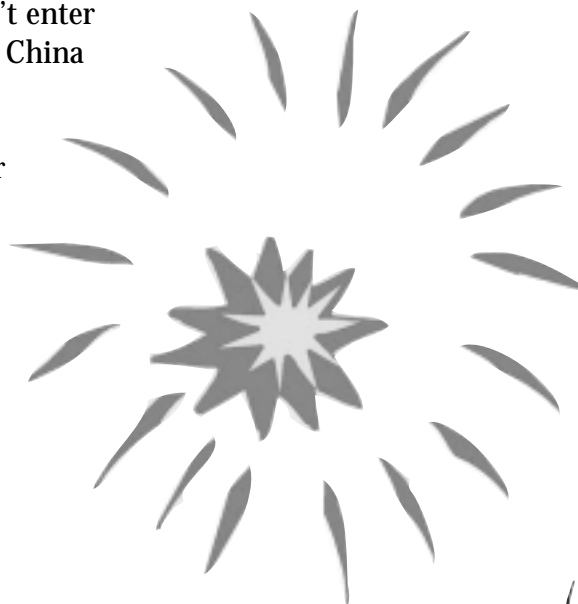
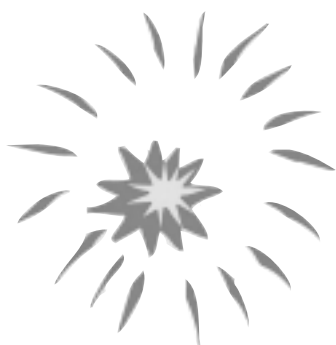
The Vietnamese don't just celebrate the dead; they also celebrate being born because Tet is everyone's birthday. Instead of celebrating birthdays on the exact day each person was born, everyone celebrates together on Tet. Children get red envelopes of "lucky money." Chinese children get the same during their New Year holiday. And, while they may not eat birthday cake, they sure do eat. Tet is a feast of chicken, rice, special soup, noodles, and "Earth" cake, which is a dish made with pork. A watermelon is cut for good luck. What color is the inside of a watermelon? That's right – it's red. And the redder it is, the luckier the family will be.

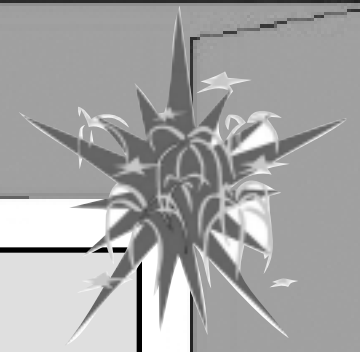
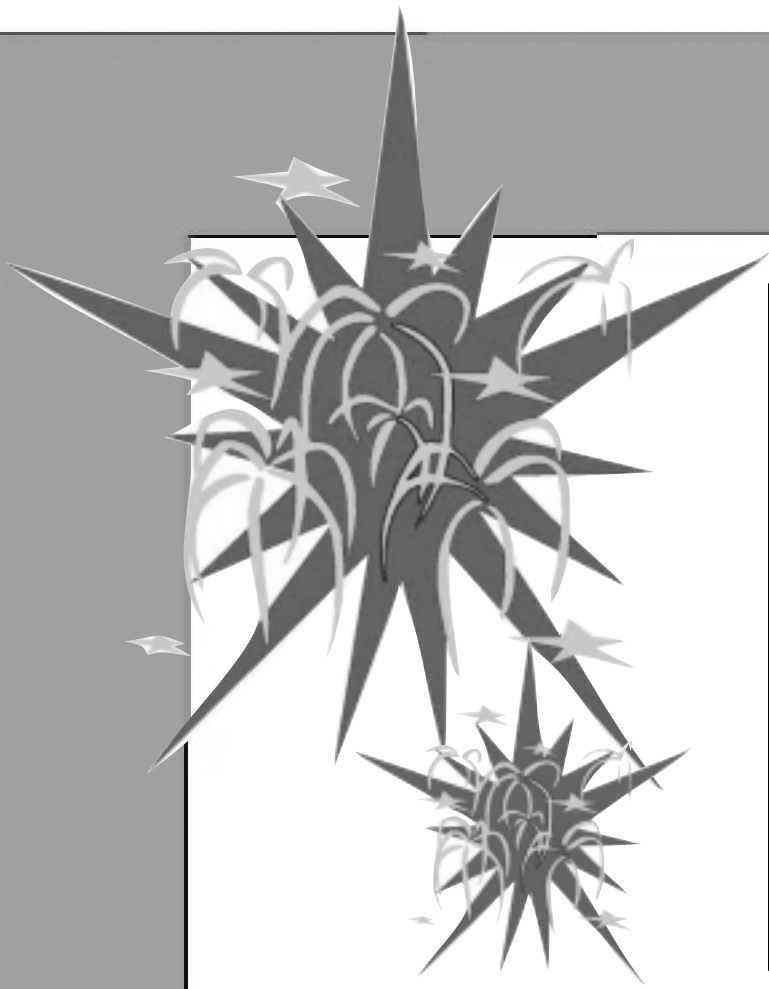


No Chinese New Year celebration would be complete without fireworks and dragon dances. Some believe that the noise of the fireworks scares away evil spirits so that they can't enter the new year. In fact, gunpowder was invented in China more than 1,000 years ago just for that purpose.



It's important to know that the Chinese New Year is celebrated wherever there are Chinese people, not just in China.



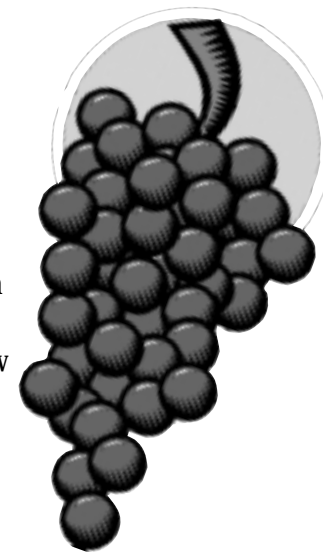


# Where in the World

Vietnam is near China. Because of that, their New Year celebrations are similar. Check the world map to see just how close these two countries are. The New Year holiday in India is called Diwali. It happens in October or November. Is India near China and Vietnam? Based on where it is, would you think that Diwali would be very much like the other two New Year celebrations? Go online to find out about Diwali and see if it is like the other holidays.

## Think About It

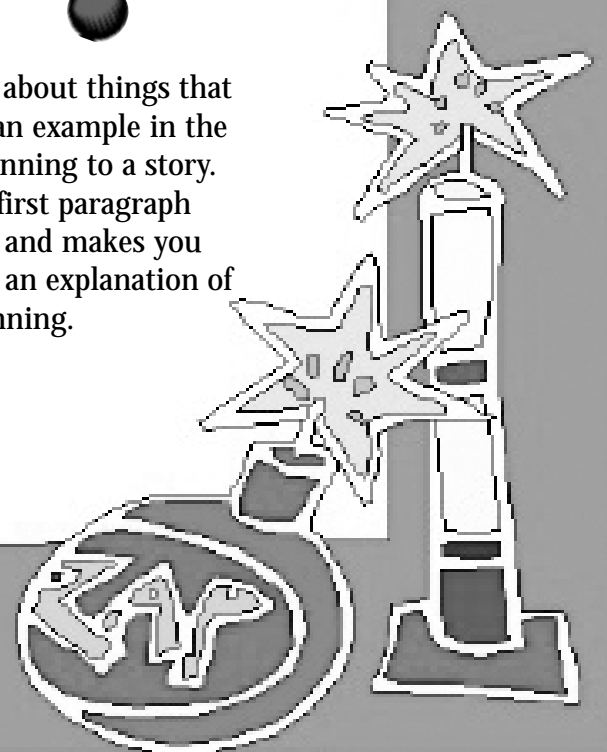
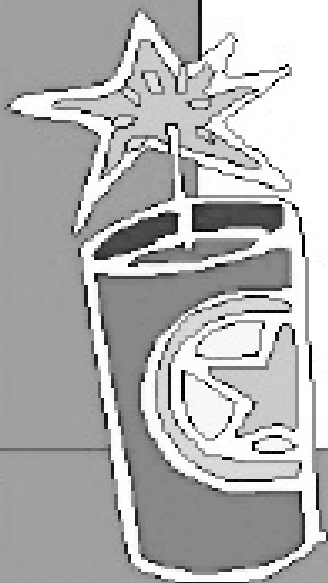
Many cultures have New Year celebrations. From the fall Jewish New Year holiday known as Rosh Hashanah, to the Japanese time of O-Shogatsu from January 1 through 3, to the Russian Orthodox Church whose year starts on January 14, to Iran where the new year begins on March 21, to Spain where people eat 12 grapes at midnight on New Year's Eve, people love to ring in a new year. If you were starting a new year today, what would you wish for the coming year?



## News Cruise

Learning standard: getting the main idea

New Year holidays are all about things that are just beginning. Find an example in the newspaper of a great beginning to a story. That is one in which the first paragraph really grabs your interest and makes you want to read more. Write an explanation of why it is a good beginning.





## Holiday of Love

Our cruise began in America with the celebration of freedom. We end in America, too, with a celebration of love – Valentine’s Day.

Although we may never know the true story of St. Valentine and his day, one version goes like this: In ancient Rome, Emperor Claudius thought that married men were bad soldiers. He passed a law that no young men could marry. One priest named Valentine continued to perform marriage ceremonies because he thought the law was wrong. Claudius put Valentine in jail.



While in jail, Valentine fell in love with the guard’s blind daughter. The legend says that his love cured her blindness. Before Valentine was put to death for his crime, he wrote his love a letter. He signed it, “From Your Valentine.”

Since then, people have given each other written messages of love using the word “Valentine.” Those messages became part of the holiday that is celebrated each year on February 14.

Maybe it’s the most important holiday of all because, after all, isn’t love more important than anything?

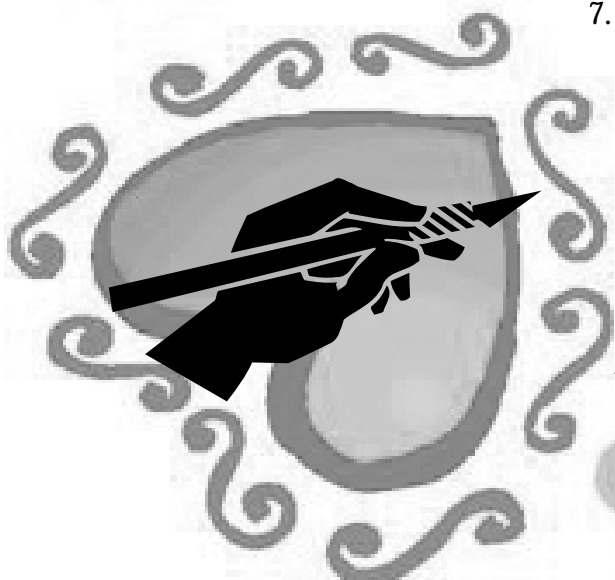


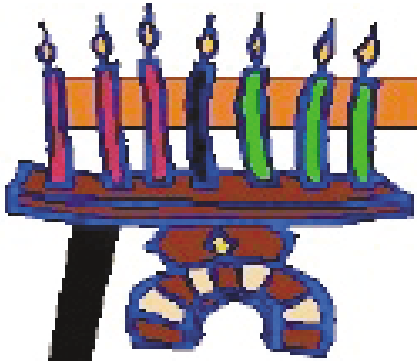
## Harvest Your Holiday Knowledge

On page 2, you answered some questions about holidays. Here they are again. Now that you’ve read all about holidays, try answering these same questions. Write your answers in complete sentences on the lines. Check back through this section if you need help.

See how much you’ve learned?

1. Where in the world is Diwali celebrated? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which color is considered lucky in Vietnam – red, blue, or gold? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name one piece of good news about Cinco de Mayo. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Name one holiday celebrating the harvest. \_\_\_\_\_
5. How long do Muslims fast for Ramadan? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the Jewish Festival of Lights called? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What kind of weather was it when the Christmas carol “Stille Nacht” was written? \_\_\_\_\_
8. For which holiday do people set off fireworks to scare off evil spirits? \_\_\_\_\_
9. When is Independence Day celebrated in America? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why are the Vietnamese New Year and Chinese New Year so much alike? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# News Cruise

Learning standards: writing creatively

Imagine that you are a newspaper reporter writing about your favorite holiday. Check the newspaper to see how news stories are written and then write your story and draw a picture to go with it.



## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

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### Resources

To learn more about these holidays, check out these Web sites:

- Shavuot [www.jdc.org.il/fsu/jewishyear/english/sivan\\_shavuot\\_history.htm](http://www.jdc.org.il/fsu/jewishyear/english/sivan_shavuot_history.htm)
- Three Kings Day [www.calendar-updates.com/Holidays/US/threekings.htm](http://www.calendar-updates.com/Holidays/US/threekings.htm)
- Diwali [www.indiaexpress.com/faith/festivals/dhistory.html](http://www.indiaexpress.com/faith/festivals/dhistory.html)
- Kwanzaa [www.melanet.com/kwanzaa/whatis.html](http://www.melanet.com/kwanzaa/whatis.html)
- Chanukah [www.holidays.net/chanukah/story.html](http://www.holidays.net/chanukah/story.html)
- Tet [www.web-holidays.com/tet/](http://www.web-holidays.com/tet/)
- Christmas [www.inglewoodcarecentre.com/history/christmas\\_history.htm](http://www.inglewoodcarecentre.com/history/christmas_history.htm)

### Answers Page 7:

- 12 green bell peppers
- 6 onions
- 36 cloves garlic
- 6 bunches cilantro
- 18 tablespoons olive oil
- 6 cans (90 ounces total) tomato sauce
- 6 packages (1.5 ounces total) Spanish seasoning
- 18 cups uncooked brown rice
- 12 cans (90 ounces total) pigeon peas, drained
- 36 cups boiling water

### Answers to Page 10:

1. 660 trees
2. 8 years
3. Dec. 23, \$56.25; Dec. 24, \$37.50

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