



Christmas Week Celebrations

Festivals bring jubilation to the spirit of celebrations in otherwise routine life of grown ups. The festivals are occasions to have fun and frolic, singing and dancing, relishing delicious gourmet food, meeting people and creating memories for life.

These are also occasions to rekindle the rituals, customs and traditions.

As educators we can create multiple learning opportunities while having these celebrations.

Through this specific learning week it is our endeavour to bring the festivities and the learning experiences together.

The module is spread over five weeks, one celebratory activity per day for kindergarten learners-age 3-6 years approximately.

These activities can be done at the beginning of the day or before dispersal.

The experiences are divided into five segments covering:

what is this festival-origin,

why is it celebrated-reason,



who celebrates it-different communities

and how is it celebrated-music, food and decorations.

Day 1

Origin of Christmas

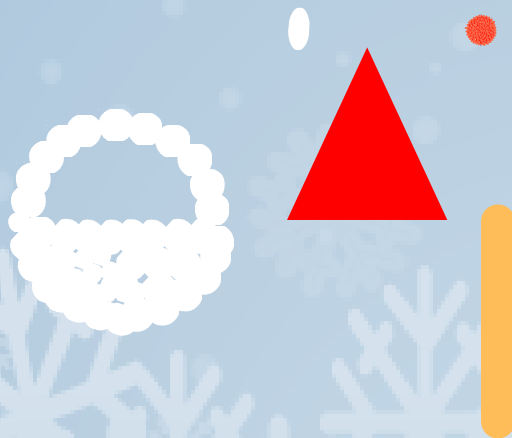


Materials Required	Learning Domain	Activity
<p>PreN : Blue paper card, three circle shape paper cutouts, shredded newspaper, black paper pieces, star stickers, buttons, orange colour triangle shape paper, and red colour paper half circle.</p>	<p>Christmas is traditionally a Christian festival and it is celebrated in most parts of the world.</p> <p>However irrespective of the it's religious connotation this festival symbolises the spirit of joy, good times, peace and love for all.</p> <p>Traditional rituals during the celebrations may differ in different parts of the globe but the festival is all about celebrating the birth of Jesus on December 25th.</p> 	<p>PreN : Making snowman craft (individual activity) Paste three circle shaped paper cutouts to form the body of the snowman, give effect of snow on the body using shredded newspaper, paste twigs as hands, black paper pieces as the hat, black paper balls as eyes, orange triangle pieces as nose and red half circle as mouth.</p> 

Day 1

Origin of Christmas


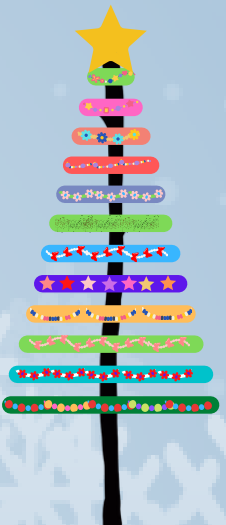
Materials Required	Learning Domain	Activity
<p>Nursery : Paper plate, child friendly scissors, red pom pom, cotton balls, ice cream stick, glue, red triangle shape and white oval shape paper cutouts.</p>	<p>It is celebrated for 12 days because it took 3 wise mens 12 days to find the baby Jesus. It begins from the last 6 days of the ongoing year to the first 6 days of the upcoming year. This is how Christmas eve and New year celebrations collaborate.</p> <p>The teacher shares with children the meaning of the word Christmas and also about new year celebrations. She encourages children to share what this celebration means to them.</p>	<p>Nursery : Making Santa Claus mask The teacher initiates a conversation around the most exciting part of Christmas for young children, receiving gifts from Santa and guides them to make a related craft.</p> <p>Identify the shapes of materials proposed to be used in making the craft - circle, triangle, rectangle, oval etc. Cut the paper plate into half, paste red triangle paper and white oval shaped paper pieces as a hat, paste the cotton balls as the beard, use red pom pom as nose and stick an ice cream stick at the back of the paper plate. (individual activity)</p>



Day 1

Origin of Christmas





Materials Required	Learning Domain	Activity
<p>KG : 12 Ice cream sticks, long twigs, decorative materials, glue, star shape paper cutout, thread, paint and brush.</p>	<p>The teacher from the discussions help learners bring out the important symbols of Christmas and help the learners to create artefacts like Santa Claus, Christmas tree and the Snowman.</p> 	<p>KG : Making X-mas Tree Helping the learners know the importance of 12 days of celebration the teachers organises this activity for grade KG learners.</p> <p>Rote count ice cream sticks/twigs from 1-12, marking 12 days of celebration.</p> <p>Paint and arrange all 12 ice-cream/twigs from short to long sequence, paste all twigs over a long stick using glue. Once dried, decorate the christmas tree using stars, beads, glitters and paste star shape paper cutout and tag to hang.</p> 

Day 2

Relevance of Christmas




Materials Required	Learning Domain	Activity
<p>PreN : Props and puppets for story enactment of the story The Legend of the Christmas Tree.</p> <p>Nursery : Picture sequence cards of the story The Elves and the Shoemaker.</p>	<p>The three stories of relevance are enacted by teacher/s for different learning levels.</p> <p>PreN - Story of The Legend of the Christmas Tree.</p>  <p>Nursery - Story of The Elves and the Shoemaker.</p> 	<p>PreN : Conversation around the plot. What do you do when you see people in need? What would you like to give to help people- food, clothes, toys etc.</p> <p>Nursery : Post enactment have a conversation about the story, incorporating these leading questions; What if the elves were not kind enough to help the shoemaker on that night? What would have happened to the shoemaker? Why did the couple decide to gift them nice clothes and a cute pair of shoes? What inspires you-the giving act of the elves or of the shoemaker and his wife?</p> <p>Invite them to volunteer and tell the story using picture sequence cards.</p>

Day 2


Relevance of Christmas



Materials Required	Learning Domain	Activity
<p>KG : Story enactment with props and costumes Jesus Fed 5000 People.</p>	<p>KG - Story of Jesus fed 5000 People.</p>  <p>Jesus Fed 5000 People</p>	<p>KG : Have you ever observed/participated in cooking meals at home on a small scale for a family and cooking meals at a large scale for the community? What is the size of cooking vessels, quantity of materials used, time taken in preparation for both types? Is it possible to feed 5 loaves and 2 fish to 5000 people? How do you think this happened? What will you do if you are in a situation where the food is apparently less than the number of people to be fed?</p> <p>Help the learners explore the feeling of compassion, sharing and giving.</p>


Day 3

Variety of Decoration

Materials Required	Learning Domain	Activity
<p>PreN: Paper sheet, dry leaves, twigs, beads, buttons, paper balls and glue.</p>	<p>There are a vast variety of decorations done for Christmas celebrations. Each decoration like a christmas tree, lights and ornaments have symbolic meaning.</p> <p>We have chosen three simple types of decorating items that can be easily prepared by learners.</p> <p>PreN - Making Santa's reindeer-Rudolf Reindeer lives in extremely cold places. They have been associated with Christmas for many centuries. Reindeer symbolises wisdom, resourcefulness, cleverness, knowledge, creativity, inventiveness and cleverness. And it is believed that white reindeer bring goodluck.</p>	<p>PreN : Making Santa's reindeer Place a medium size dry leaf on paper as the face of the reindeer, mark and paste 2 twigs as antlers. Paste buttons as eyes and a red colour paper ball as the reindeer's nose.</p> <p>Rudolf the red nosed reindeer is ready!</p> <div data-bbox="1420 927 1895 1406" data-label="Image">  </div>


Day 3

Variety of Decoration

Materials Required	Learning Domain	Activity
<p>Nursery : Cardboard, white paper, 2 plates, leaves, flowers, thread, ribbon and glue.</p>	<p>Nursery - Christmas wreaths are usually hung on the front door during the Christmas season. It is said that when Jesus wore a crown of holy branches, the white berries turned red. The wreath became a symbolic emblem of Jesus.</p> <p>The circle-shaped wreath is symbolic of eternity, the leaves and fruits which are combined to make a wreath are symbolic of the strength of life.</p>	<p>Nursery : Making a wreath Cut a thick paper board in the shape of a wheel. Cover it with white paper. Paste leaves, flower petals, grass over the wheel. Make a ribbon bow and add it on the top. The wreath to hang at the entrance is ready!</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>





Day 3

Variety of Decoration

Materials Required	Learning Domain	Activity
<p>KG : Table wax candles, paper sheets of purple and pink colour, green leaves, red flowers, glue, white sheet and colour pencils.</p>	<p>KG - Decorating advent candles Wreaths are decorated using four candles. The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The first candle, which is purple, symbolises hope. The second candle, also purple, represents faith. The third candle is pink and symbolises joy. On the fourth week of advent another purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer. This final candle is called Angel's Candle that symbolises peace.</p>	<p>KG : Decorating advent candles Decorate the coloured paper (which are to be used to wrap around the candles) sheets using markers, sketch pens, glitter, sequins and more. Have provisions of three purple and one pink for a group of four children. Wrap the decorated paper sheets around the candles. Use red colour paper strips as the flame of the candle, attach it around the wick. Paste these candles on a circular base made of cardboard, decorate it with green colour leaves and flower cutouts.</p> <p>Label the candles as: Hope, Faith, Joy, Peace.</p> 

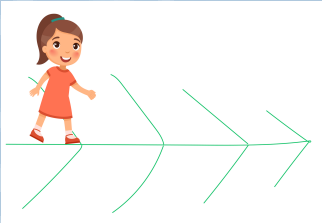
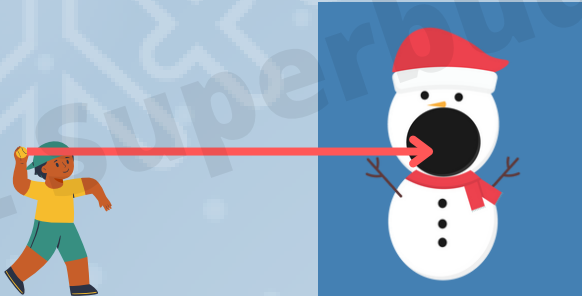

Day 4

Christmas denotes the Joy of Giving

Materials Required	Learning Domain	Activity
 	<p>Christmas is not only celebrated as the birth of Christ but also to pass the message of charity.</p> <p>It is an occasion to spread the joy of sharing among people who are in need. It means to enjoy and to help others enjoy the festival with food, gifts and lots of love.</p> <p>Charity is the way of expressing goodwill.</p> <p>To mark this the learners are encouraged to bring from home any one article of their choice such as a book or a toy dear to them (in good condition) to share with children with less privileges. These can be collected and sent to community places along with the decorations created by learners on day 3.</p> <p>On day 4, children have a fun filled time playing games organised by teachers for them.</p> <p>Teachers make arrangements for these games in advance.</p> <p>The greeting cards and other decorations made by all learning levels are displayed in the common area under the christmas tree.</p> <p>Children get together and sing carols here.</p> <p>These decorations can be sent to community places as a Christmas gift from the school.</p>	 


Day 4

Christmas denotes the Joy of Giving

Materials Required	Learning Domain	Activity
<p>PreN : Green tape or paper strips.</p> <p>Nursery : Balls and a paper snowman.</p> <p>KG : English letters cutouts of A-Z multiple pieces. Like a scrabble board grid printed on paper-multiple copies.</p>	<p>PreN - Walk on X-mas tree.</p>  <p>Nursery - Feed the snowman.</p>  <p>KG - Christmas words scrabble.</p> 	<p>PreN : The teacher draws an X-mas tree consisting of lines on the floor using green colour tape or paper strips. The learner walks on the trees on toes from one end to the other without losing physical balance</p> <p>Nursery : Teacher makes a big paper snow man chart paper with a cavity as an open mouth. Every child gets two chances to feed the snowman by passing a ball through its mouth. All who are successful receive a token reward like a paper star medal from the teacher.</p> <p>KG : The learners are divided into pairs of two and provided with letter cutouts of the English alphabet and the board. Each child gets to think of three words related to the Christmas festival and arrange these on the board. Such as: snow, joy, Jesus, christ, and more.</p>

Day 5

Making Healthy Gingerbread man Sandwich

Materials Required	Learning Domain	Activity
<p>Healthy bread, ginger bread mould, peanut butter and finely chopped vegetables for sandwich stuffing. Mayonnaise to create the gingerbread man's features on the top slice.</p>	<p>No festivity is complete without the special food. On day 5, all learning levels make healthy gingerbread man sandwiches for everyone.</p>  <p>Note: Make sure that no child is allergic to the ingredients being used for this activity.</p>	<p>Process of making healthy gingerbread man sandwich:</p> <p>Place two slices of bread on a plate. Put gingerbread man mould and press on both slices of bread to get the cutout. Spread peanut butter on both slices. Add finely chopped vegetables and sprinkle salt and mild spices on the base slice. Place the other slice on top of it and lastly make features of the gingerbread man using mayonnaise, sandwich is ready.</p> <p>Set a table with the sandwiches prepared by all learning levels in the common area and invite children to pick and relish other's preparations.</p>



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