

# storybook STEM

## HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD



CREATED BY BROOKE BROWN AND KATIE KING

# RESEARCH MATS & BUILDING BRICK CHALLENGES



HANUKKAH



KWANZAA



LAS POSADAS



All About Hanukkah

Dreidel Song

Kwanzaa Video

Kwanzaa Symbols

Christmas in Mexico

Poinsettias



DREIDEL



HANUKKAH



UNITY CUP



KWANZAA



PIÑATA



MEXICO

ST. LUCIA'S DAY



LA BEFANA



CHRISTMAS



All About St. Lucia's Day

Traditions of St. Lucia's Day

Christmas in Italy

Epiphany

Christmas in America

Christmas in Germany



St. Lucia's Day Video

Lussekatte Recipe

La Befana Storyteller

La Befana Video

Christmas in the United Kingdom

Christmas in Canada

ST. LUCIA CANDLE



SWEDEN

OLD BEFANA'S BROOM



ITALY

CHRISTMAS TREE



GERMANY

# RESEARCH MATS & BUILDING BRICK CHALLENGES



## DIWALI



Diwali Video All About Diwali

DIYA (OIL LAMP)



DIWALI



## LUNAR NEW YEAR



Lunar New Year Video Lunar New Year Traditions

LANTERN



LUNAR NEW YEAR



## RAMADAN



Ramadan Video All About Ramadan

CRESCENT MOON & STAR



RAMADAN

# FLIPBOOK JOURNAL WITH MATH EXTENSIONS

## HANUKKAH

On Hanukkah, Jewish children play with a dreidel, which is a four-sided spinning top with Hebrew letters. The game is usually played for a pot of coins or nuts, which is won or lost based on which letter the dreidel lands when it is spun.

**Build a DREIDEL.**

**Draw your DREIDEL.**

**Count your bricks.**

| Type of Brick | How Many? |
|---------------|-----------|
| 4 PEGS        | 8         |
| 8 PEGS        | 9         |
| 12 PEGS       | 17        |

How many total bricks?

Write a number sentence.

$8 + 9 + 17 =$

LA BEFANA

## KWANZAA

Each day during Kwanzaa, water, wine, or juice is poured into the Kikombe cha umwa, unity cup. Everyone sips from the cup to symbolize the unity of the family and community. After drinking from the cup, the family discusses great African Americans.

**Build a UNITY CUP.**

**Draw your UNITY CUP.**

**What shapes do you see in your unity cup?**

| Shape | How Many? |
|-------|-----------|
|       | 2         |
|       | 13        |
|       | 0         |
|       | 3         |

LA BEFANA

## LAS POSADAS

Posadas are part of a Christmas tradition in Mexico. After caroling, people have parties with piñatas. Piñatas are made of paper-mâché, tissue paper, or clay. They are filled with candy and people take turns beating the piñata with a stick until it breaks open and the candy comes pouring out. The piñatas used for Las Posadas are usually in the shape of a star with 5, 7, or 9 points. Graph the brick colors that you used in your piñata.

**Build a PIÑATA.**

**Draw your PIÑATA.**

Graph the brick colors that you used in your piñata.

| Color  | How Many? |
|--------|-----------|
| Red    |           |
| Blue   |           |
| Green  |           |
| Yellow |           |
| Orange |           |
| Black  |           |

LA BEFANA

## ST. LUCIA'S DAY

St. Lucia's Day, or the Festival of Lights, is celebrated in Sweden, Norway, and Finland on December 13 in honor of St. Lucia, one of the earliest Christian martyrs. Young girls dress in white and wear lighted crowns on their heads and boys dress in white pajama-like costumes to sing traditional songs.

**Build a CANDLE.**

**Draw your CANDLE.**

**Measure your CANDLE.**

| How TALL?         | How WIDE? | How DEEP? |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| $1\frac{1}{2}$ cm | 5 cm      |           |

LA BEFANA

## LA BEFANA

Epiphany Feast, known as La Befana, is an important part of the Christmas festivities in Italy. La Befana comes from a fairy tale about a woman who flies on a broomstick bringing presents to children in Italy. La Befana is believed to be searching for baby Jesus, which is why she bears gifts for children.

**Build a BROOMSTICK.**

**Draw your BROOMSTICK.**

**Make a tally chart to show how many bricks you used in each color.**

| Color  | Tally Marks | Number |
|--------|-------------|--------|
| RED    |             | 4      |
| BLUE   |             | 5      |
| GREEN  |             | 3      |
| YELLOW |             | 3      |
| ORANGE |             | 3      |
| BLACK  |             | 3      |

LA BEFANA

## CHRISTMAS

It is the annual Christian festival that celebrates Jesus Christ's birth. The custom of Christmas trees, or "Tannenbaume," began in Germany. They are often decorated with lights, ornaments, garlands, or ribbons with a star or angel at the top.

**Build a TREE with a string color PATTERN.**

**Draw your TREE.**

**Color the pattern that you used.**

CHRISTMAS

# Kwanzaa

# Las Posadas

## Chinese New Year

Las Posadas is usually celebrated in Spain or Mexico, and the holiday lasts for nine days. At night, families walk in groups knocking on people's doors.

## Las Posadas

By Katie King and Brooke Brown

- Nine day celebration December 16<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>
- Las Posadas means "the inns," because Mary and Joseph were looking for shelter at different inns in Bethlehem.
- Songs are sang during the procession.

# Holidays around the World



# Ramadan



Ramadan is the ninth month of year and a month of fasting and prayer. During these 30 days, people that celebrate do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset. It is meant to teach them patience and to not be greedy. When the fasting gets hard, people celebrate are to pray for help. Children are not asked to fast. After sunset during Ramadan, Muslims will often gather in large groups to eat a meal called Iftar. At the end of the month that fasts are broken and friends and family get together is called Eid Al Fitr.

- The festival occurs every year in late October or early November lasting up to five days.
- Rangoli is art that is made with colored sand, rice, or flower petals on the floor.
- Gulab Jamun is a popular sweet that is made from fried dough and milk solids soaked in syrup.



streets looking for somewhere to stay  
as if they were in Bethlehem

Wow! I didn't realize how mu  
common these holidays have  
kind of like people!

You are right Tyrone! Once  
past our differences, we st

**Mrs. Morris:** That's a wonderful explanation. When  
we get those iPads back, maybe we can  
do a little fact checking on the *menorah*.

**Jackie:** So I find it pretty interesting that so  
many holidays have something to do  
with light. I was reading about  
Lucia's Day. A little girl wears a  
of candles on her head.

**Brooklyn:** Candles on her head?

**Jackie:** Yes! Well, I think now people u  
battery-operated candles.

**Cayden:** Phew! No hair fires! Hal

**Brooklyn:** No hair fires, but you do get  
sweet bread called *Lussekata*

**Narrator:** The whole time the kids w

**Dave:** Hal! So basically when the W  
were on the way to Bethle  
the baby Jesus, they invite  
come with them to meet t  
Jesus, but she said she w  
So now she delivers pres  
boys and girls so she doe  
again. Oh! Except bad kid  
lump of coal! Of course  
gotten coal!

**Marie:** Of course no! Well that sounds kinda  
like Santa. Except he is pulled around  
on a sleigh by reindeer!

**Brooklyn:** And the part of going to Bethlehem  
connects to Las Posadas.

**Mrs. Morris:** What do you mean Brooklyn?

**Brooklyn:** Well, in Mexico people dress up as Mary  
and Joseph and walk through the

information.  
holidays? You know, like into one big  
project.

Oh good idea! My Nonna lives in Italy so  
we celebrate many Italian holidays. She  
tells me stories of La Befana, and the  
witch visits our house on January 5<sup>th</sup>  
each year.

La Befana? Who? What?

**Tyrone:**

My cousins celebrate Kwanzaa! They  
live in Kansas City. When we go to visit  
them I love helping light their *kinara*.  
We also do a family project like cleaning  
out the garage or painting a birdhouse  
to brighten up the garden.

That's called Collective Work!  
That's also one of the seven principles.  
On Kwanzaa you light a *kinara*? My  
family celebrates Hanukkah, and we  
do something called a *menorah*.  
I can see what a great connection. Tell  
everyone the story of the *menorah*. It  
is quite a special one.

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Narrator</b>    | <b>Tyrone</b>   |
| <b>Mrs. Morris</b> | <b>Brooklyn</b> |
| <b>Jackie</b>      | <b>Dave</b>     |
| <b>Marie</b>       | <b>Cayden</b>   |

**Mrs. Morris:** There was about three weeks left in  
school at Sandpiper Elementary before  
winter break, and the excitement in the  
classroom was through the roof!

**Mrs. Morris:** Alright kids, settle down. I want to tell  
you about our big class project. I am  
going to split you into groups and you  
are going to use the iPads to research  
different holidays around the world.  
You will then present your findings to  
the class.

**Mrs. Morris:** As the kids scurried around the room,  
they all started to realize a problem.

