

Traditions and Celebrations

2nd-3rd grades

Overview

In this build series, students will reflect on traditions and celebrations that are important to their community. They will discuss a particular tradition or celebration and expand on their own involvement in it. They will also consider how others might celebrate and talk about a new celebration or tradition they would like to encourage.

Connect to Curriculum

This build series can be part of classroom activities that involve:

History:

- Identifying and describing local historical traditions and celebrations and comparing them with current traditions and celebrations that take place in the community or other communities.

Culture:

- Developing an understanding of how the population of an area and its culture change over time and identifying some factors that affect these changes.
- Developing an understanding about how the different people who live in a population contribute to shaping the community's beliefs, traditions, and celebrations.

Before You Begin

Assess and encourage prior learning by:

- Introducing and defining key vocabulary: *celebration*, *community*, *population*, and *tradition*.
- Reading fiction or nonfiction texts or watching movies that depict traditions and holidays in the various cultures and/or subcultures that make up a community.
- Discussing what it means to celebrate as a community, including how special events and occasions bring people together and build a strong community.

Build and Share

Have students build and share their models by following the steps outlined in the Challenge Cards provided with this activity.



Tip:

Consult the Quick Start Guide of this activity pack for ideas on classroom management and organization.



Vocabulary:

- celebration:** a party
- community:** a group of people or a neighborhood
- population:** all of the people living in a certain place
- tradition:** something that is done year after year



Reflect on the Experience

Encourage students to record and reflect on their models and ideas.

Extensions

After completing the build series, encourage further learning by:

- Creating a checklist of things to do to prepare for an important celebration and designing an invitation for it. (Character Education, Language Arts, Visual Arts)
- Writing a song or poem about a celebration or tradition (real or imagined) and why or how it is celebrated. (Music)
- Writing a newspaper article about the history of a particular tradition or celebration. (Language Arts, Social Studies)
- Interviewing local community members about their favorite traditions or celebrations. (Language Arts, Social Studies)

Facilitating Questions:

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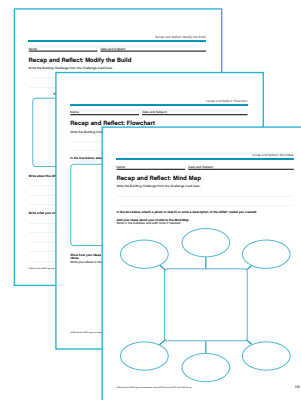
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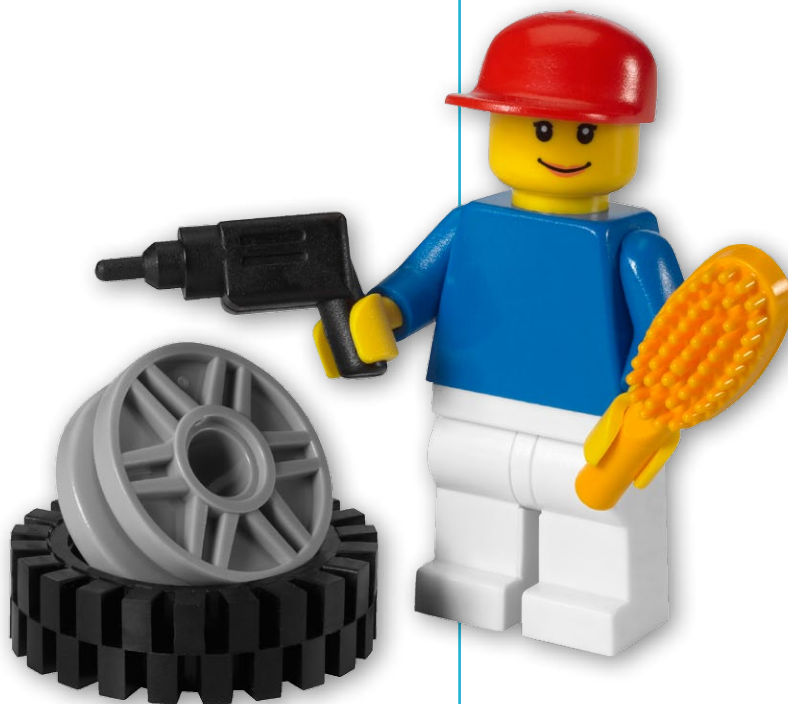
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Tip:

Use one of the Recap and Reflect Worksheets available in the Support Materials section of this activity pack to document the build experience.



Topic: Traditions and Celebrations

1 Think about



These four building tasks will help you express your thoughts and ideas about traditions and celebrations in your community.

Build: Build a model that shows a celebration held in your community or family every year.

Building Time: 3-4 minutes

Share: When the building time is up, take turns telling each other about what you have built.

Keep your model on your own building plate.



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2 Remember



Now that you've thought about a specific example, it is useful to think about a time when you participated in this tradition or celebration.

Build: Build a model that shows something you and your family do to celebrate this event.

Building Time: 3-4 minutes

Share: When the building time is up, take turns telling each other about what you have built.

Keep your model on your own building plate.



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3 Imagine



Now you will use your imagination and creativity to think about how other people celebrate.

Build: Build a model that shows how you think this occasion might be celebrated by people from another family, community, part of the world, or time period.

Building Time: 3-4 minutes

Share: When the building time is up, take turns telling each other about what you have built.

Keep your model on your own building plate.



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4 Conclude



Now you will build a model that sums up what you have learned so far.

Build: Build a model that shows a new celebration or tradition that you would like to see started in your community or your family in the future.

Building Time: 3-4 minutes

Share: When the building time is up, take turns telling each other about what you have built.

Keep your model on your own building plate.



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