

KINDERGARTEN
TWIN RIDGES HOME STUDY

FOURTH LEARNING PERIOD
By Marguerite Vulfs

Festivals of Light
Social Studies
Crafting & Food

Science & Mathematics

Fairy Gingerbread

Circle

Story

FESTIVALS OF LIGHT SOCIAL STUDIES

One of the first crafts my own children brought home to me from Kindergarten was a rolled beeswax candle. Through the years our family had many different versions of candles presented to us that helped to bring light into the house as the days got darker. Often the candles arrived at a seasonal celebration. In turn, it offered us a chance to explore and celebrate other cultures. Some of the different ways to approach what to celebrate at this time of year depends, perhaps, on cultural interest and background. However, it can also be a learning experience to explore a culture that you know nothing about. Over time, many celebrations of a religious nature are integrated into the cultural traditions of a country. Below I have included some celebrations that are also in the next learning period for planning purposes. The following are some cultural and seasonal Festivals of Light for this time of year:

Devali – Hindu – India & Worldwide – November 7-11, 2018

St Martin's Day – Christian – France & Germany – November 11, 2018
Martinmas Lantern Walk (Veterans Day November 11)

Advent – Christian – Four Sundays before as preparation for Christmas Eve
Sweden, Germany & Worldwide – December 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2018

Hanukkah – Jewish – Worldwide – December 2-10, 2018

Santa Lucia – Christian – Sweden & Italy – December 13, 2018

Each of these celebrations uses candlelight during the darkest time of the year. Each is uniquely different and celebrated for different reasons. Choosing to explore a new culture with their customs and traditions helps to bring understanding and tolerance of others. Young children are also naturally inquisitive and bring a sense of wonder and joy to their celebrations. Adding light helps maintain this sense of wonder in them and perhaps can re-ignite it within yourself as well!

While candles can easily be bought, it is also fun to make your own. Dipping beeswax candles is fun and easy. Beeswax sheets can also be cut and rolled to make smaller candles. A word of caution: Paper Lanterns have been known to catch on fire, so I recommend a battery "candle" for them.

FESTIVALS OF LIGHT CRAFTING & FOOD

Devali

Candles are often created with wicks in oil. An altar is central in the home. Explore food to serve such as tikka masala.

St Martins Day

Lanterns are created. A simple Martinmas lantern can be made with a jar and tissue paper. Prepare a mixture of glue with water. Using a brush with a sturdy handle, "paint" the tissue paper onto the jar. Donate clothing to the poor at this time.

Advent

A candle can be painted with 24 golden lines that you light a little each day. Some households create a small craft each day leading up to Christmas Eve. Baking is often done at this time to give to others using honey, spices and dried fruit.

Hanukkah

The menorah is a candelabrum with nine branches which are for the nine days of Hanukkah. Latkes or potato pancakes are often served at this celebration.

Santa Lucia

Traditionally the oldest girl in the family wears candles on her head and dresses in white with a red sash. She serves special Santa Lucia buns.

SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS

Every day observe the trees and take notice of all the leaves that have fallen off of them. Which trees no longer have any leaves left on them? Mulch plants in the garden for the winter with leaves/grass clippings.

For November 5-9

- Day 1 - With the abundance of leaves, create "leaf mats".
Put leaves between two pieces of wax paper.
Cut construction paper for a frame.
Create five mats with 1 leaf, 2 leaves, up to 5 leaves.
Iron on low to seal. Your child will need help ironing.
- Day 2 - Pick up chestnuts to use for counting.
Have your child count as far as they can,
then repeat with the chestnuts.
- Day 3 - Cut a branch 12 inches long and another 1 yard long.
Measure different things in your house with the branch.
- Day 4 - Plant your fifth Narcissus "Paper White" bulb.
Count the pebbles together as you place them in the container.
Notice root development and growth in previous bulbs.
- Day 5 - Make sure you have measurement tools for cooking.
Pick out 4 recipes for next week.
I have included one for Fairy Gingerbread.
Measure things outside with your branches.

For November 13-16

- Day 6-9 - During all of this week, your child will measure and cut $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ small pieces depending on food. Prep veggies you use with them by cutting into smaller strips. Try to be precise with your recipes. Note which recipes turned out well. Try to create one recipe that can be repeated for Thanksgiving.
- Day 8 - Plant your sixth Narcissus "Paper White" bulb.
Place all six containers in a row if possible to observe growth.

For November 26-30

- Day 10 - Gather plant materials to make a round wreath.
Evergreens, pods, cones, etc.
Grapevines are also good as a base.
- Day 11 - Introduce the Number 6 by finding a recipe that only takes six ingredients. Make sure you count the ingredients i.e.
"The flour is the first ingredient, the salt is the second, etc."
- Day 12 - Have a day of using manipulatives.
Create using six pieces to begin with and add from there.
- Day 13 - Find 3 things in the sky and 3 things on the earth
that relate to one another i.e. bird in sky and nest on ground.
Draw a picture together.
- Day 14 - Create a sixth "leaf mat" using 6 leaves. Line up and observe
which mats could add up to child's birthday age.

FAIRY GINGERBREAD

1 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter
2 eggs
1 cup milk
1 cup molasses
2 1/2 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 tablespoon ginger

Cream sugar and butter in a bowl.
Beat eggs, then add eggs, milk and molasses.
Sift flour, baking soda and ginger into mixture and beat well.
Bake in shallow greased pan in oven at 350 degees for 45 minutes.

CIRCLE

I keep Circle simple for this learning period by using it as an opportunity to explore sound with various instruments. A kinder lyre, a triangle, bells and percussion instruments that mimic rain are fun to explore.

Also, you could introduce Native American songs. I often repeat verses from the last three learning periods in the way of rhymes for the first two weeks as a way of reinforcing what I have introduced.

STORY

The story for the first two weeks is “The Little Girl Who Would Not Work” from the book Tell Me A Story: Stories from the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America edited by Louise deForest and illustrated by Deborah Greider & Jo Valens. Then we have the Thanksgiving Week Holiday. The story for the last week is “The Elves and The Shoemaker” from Grimms Fairy Tales. There are so many good stories for Winter, including the book The Christmas Wish by Lori Evert, that I highly recommend you use the “Moving Beyond The Page” section of the Parent Resource Room.

In addition, begin to explore poetry. One poem to explore is “Thoughts” by Jacqueline Bouvier and “Something Told the Wild Geese” by Rachel Field from the book A Family of Poems, My Favorite Poetry for Children by Caroline Kennedy. Find poems that speak to you when you read them. Poetry exploration begins now and will continue, so find things that you enjoy reading with your child.

Created by Marguerite Vulfs November 2018