

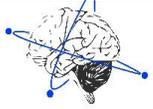


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Not all populations celebrate our equivalent of Christmas. In some populations, such as Egypt, many Egyptians are not Christian. Those that are Christian and celebrate our equivalent of Christmas celebrate it vastly different. In Egypt, Christmas is celebrated on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January. They have a period known as “The Holy Nativity Fast” that begins on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November and ends on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January in which Egyptians diet is that of vegans. Merry Christmas in Egyptian Arabic is known as “Eid Milad Majid” which is known as “Glorious Birth Feast”. In Japan, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, schools and businesses are still in operation because of the fact that Christmas is not a national holiday. Typically, Christmas eve is our equivalent of Valentine’s day. Merry Christmas in Japanese is known as “Meri Kurisumasu”. Lastly, in Costa Rica Christmas is typically celebrated when the school year is completed. There are also a lot of parades, rodeos, fiestas, carnivals, etc. Knowing this, you can research a little bit about each country (or even other countries depending on the make-up of your classroom) and incorporate it into your holiday lesson plan. ENJOY!

<i>Centers</i>	<i>Costa Rica</i>	<i>Egypt</i>	<i>Japan</i>
<i>Music &amp; Movement</i>	Have children make drums using oatmeal containers or large ice cream containers. Have them imitate different rhythms while they make their own music.	Incorporate different cultural music into your music movement activity so that children can experience music from various cultures.	Children can make a Japanese Koto using a small rectangular box and string it with elastic bands to make music.
<i>Cooking Activity</i>	Children can make Ensalada de frutas (fruit salad) using different fruits.	Children can make a traditional Egyptian salad.	Children can make their own snack using carrot or celery sticks, peanut butter, topped with raisins. (Be sure there are no allergies)
<i>Art Center</i>	They can make a small Christmas wreath with flowers and branches held together with strings.	Children can use boxes where they can make different types of homes.	Children can make Japanese Koi fish out of toilet paper rolls and tissue paper and hang it up.
<i>Dramatic Play</i>	Have a Costa Rican restaurant with menus and “cultural” foods for children to create their own play experience.	Create a supermarket or store where children can shop for various foods or clothing items.	Turn dramatic play into a museum where children can experience various places around the world.
<i>Story Time</i>	Children can create their own story book and leave it in the library area.	Read different books about various people around the world and give children the opportunity to experience different people and “cultures”.	Create your own story book about different animals and foods from around the world using visual props to help children connect to the story.

***Early childhood experiences causes structural changes in the brain***



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*Early childhood experiences causes structural changes in the brain*