

# Holidays Around the World Mystery Pictures Activity Set

This drag-and-drop, Google Slides activity allows students to read informational text about these diverse winter holidays: Omisoka--Japanese New Year's, Christmas in America, Hanukkah, Fiesta of Our Lady Guadalupe in Mexico, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, New Year's in Brazil, The December Chumpu Festival in India.

Then your students will answer reading questions based on each text. But there's a twist: the pictures of these winter holidays have been scrambled up. For students to see each picture, they must answer the questions correctly.

## Student Directions

This world is filled with interesting winter holidays.

You are going to see many of those holiday celebrations on the next few slides. However, there's a catch: each picture of the winter holidays has been broken apart and is now a mystery!



You will use close reading skills to reveal each mystery picture.

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# Example Slides

Click HERE to see the answers

## Winter Holidays Mystery Pictures

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What holiday is associated with fireworks?	When is Omisoka celebrated?	What Japanese word means "last day of the month?"
Who is the "Great-Year God?"	What do Japanese people spend a lot of time doing for Omisoka?	Why do Japanese people think it's very important to declutter during Omisoka?
What does the "Great-Year God" bring?	Based on the context clues, what words are a synonym for "good luck."	What is the main theme of Omisoka?



Drag the correct answer to each question to reveal the mystery picture.

Students must answer the reading comprehension questions correctly to solve the Mystery Pictures.

Click HERE to see the answers

## Winter Holidays Mystery Pictures

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Who mostly celebrates Hanukkah?
How long does Hanukkah celebrations last?
When is Hanukkah celebrated?
What is a "Menorah?"
What is a "shamash?"
Why do people eat special foods during Hanukkah?
For Hanukkah, people play special



Drag the correct answer to each question to reveal the mystery picture.

# 1 Hanukkah

Many holidays honor a certain person or event that happened in history. But have you ever heard of a holiday that honors a special place? Well, that's what the famous Jewish holiday Hanukkah is about! It honors a place called The Holy Temple in Jerusalem. This temple was destroyed during a revolt but was later rebuilt. Hanukkah lasts eight days, but the exact days change every year. However, it is always celebrated around late November or December.

Jewish people have many traditions and rituals to celebrate Hanukkah.

One of these traditions is to exchange presents and light a candle on the "Menorah" each day. The Menorah is like a lamp. It holds nine candles, one for each day of Hanukkah and another candle called a shamash in the middle.

When the candles are lit, people sing hymns that are specifically for Hanukkah and play special games like "dreidel." Jewish people also eat special foods like olive oil, latkes, brisket, and matzo ball soup. These activities help them to remember the rededication of The Holy Temple.

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6 Nonfiction Reading Comprehension Slides



# You can edit parts of this resource!

## Editing Directions

You can edit the questions and answers on each mystery picture slide. Right click any wording you want to change, then click "Ungroup," and type your new text. Any changes you make, be sure to make the same changes on the Answer Key slides.

Click **HERE** to see the answers

### Winter Holidays Mystery Pictures

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Drag the correct answer to each question to reveal the mystery picture.

Who mostly celebrates Hanukkah?

How long does Hanukkah celebrations last?

When is Hanukkah celebrated?

What is a "Menorah"?

What is a "shamash"?

Why do people eat special foods during Hanukkah?

For Hanukkah, people play special games called \_\_\_\_\_

Jewish people

To remember the rededication of the temple.

Late November and early December

A candelabra

Happy Hanukkah

Around 8 days

Dreidel

The middle candle

Here are the parts of this resource that cannot be changed:

- the mystery pictures
- the informational reading texts
- the backgrounds

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# Example Answer Key Slides

Embedded links make transitions easier for students.

Click [HERE](#) to see the next holiday

## Winter Holidays Mystery Pictures

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Drag the correct answer to each question to reveal the mystery picture.

New Year's    December 31st    misoka

Toshigami    Cleaning    To make room for the new

Prosperity    Good Fortune    A restart and new beginnings

## Writing Prompts Also Included

Which winter holiday is your favorite and why?

Type Here

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# Important Details to Know

- There are 6 reading comprehension slides.
- Questions & answers on each slide are editable.
  - There are 6 mystery pictures to solve.
- Students will have fun while practicing reading.
- This resource was designed for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - 3 Follow-up writing prompts included.
  - Answer Keys included

## 4

## Omisoka: Japanese New Year

When you think of fireworks, bright lights, and lots of happy celebrating, what comes to mind? Well, if it's December 31<sup>st</sup>, you may think of New Year's Eve celebrations. But the United States isn't the only place with special activities on this winter holiday; Japanese culture also has a version of New Year's festivities called Omisoka.

It is pronounced om-e-so-kah. In Japan, "misoka" means "the last day of the month." This is a very busy time when many families do a deep clean of their homes and bodies to get rid of negative energy to welcome the new.

They expand this tradition during the last day of the year. However, they also add other rituals with it like preparing special New Year's foods to welcome what Japanese people call the "Toshigami". This is a religious figure believed to bring prosperity and good fortune to each year. In fact, he is also known as the "Great-Year God."

Even though many people gather with family to enjoy a large feast, many Japanese people see this winter holiday as an important chance to restart and prepare for a new beginning.

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4th-6th grades

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**SYNONYM SNOWMAN**  
grades 3-5

SNYONYM synonyms

significant, funny, pretty, tired, sluggish, tiny, miniature

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**Learning About Lent**

Symbols for Lent, What is Lent?, When Does Lent Begin?, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a period of time where Christians fast and pray.

-Task Cards -Worksheets -Lent Calendar

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**CHINESE NEW YEAR 2021**

Lunar New Year & Spring Festival  
The 2021 Chinese zodiac animal  
Two other names for Chinese New Year  
Learning All About Chinese New Year

3rd-4th grades

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