



Holidays

by Stewart Gardiner

Overview

Use this book to introduce holidays as times to remember historical figures and events.

Literacy Focus *Word Count: 191 words*

High Frequency Words
first, from, have, our, this, your

Content Words
holidays, remember, presidents, memorial, country, voyage, pilgrims

Decoding Skills

- **Initial Consonant Blends:** *sp, pr (special, president)*
- **Possessives:** *Presidents', America's, Columbus's*

Print Conventions

- **Punctuation:** Capital letters for proper nouns

Comprehension/
Thinking Skills

- Understanding main idea and supporting details
- Relating to prior knowledge
- Recalling facts

Text Features

- Labels

Writing/Speaking
and Listening

- Writing about a favorite holiday
- Sharing ideas about people and events in history
- Discussing holidays

Observe/Assess

See Using Graphic Organizers in the Assessment Handbook.

Social Studies Focus

Content and
Thinking Skills

- Naming the holidays that occur throughout the months of the year
- Understanding that holidays are times to remember important people and events
- Identifying historical figures who helped to shape the United States

- Understanding that customs and beliefs are important
- Understanding that holidays allow people to interact with each other in different ways

Background Information

Children can begin to learn about and understand their heritage by studying national holidays. They may already have some knowledge of the historical facts related to

each of the holidays and know some of the reasons for these traditional celebrations. Children can begin to investigate other holidays that reflect their communities and cultures.

Correlation to
National Standards

Social Studies

- Culture

See Standards Chart on page 206.

Literacy Focus

Set the Scene

Ask children to think of their favorite holidays. List responses. Discuss why they made those choices.

What is the next holiday we'll celebrate?

Read and Discuss

Cover and Title Page

Discuss recent holidays and their importance. Talk about special activities that are usually done on those days. Discuss why this might be.

Pages 2-3

Discuss the main idea of the book by asking:

Why do we have holidays?

Why do we need to remember people and events from the past?

Pages 4-5

What holiday do we celebrate in January?

Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.? Why is he important?

Pages 6-7

Who is our president?

What other presidents can you name?

Why do we need to remember them?

Pages 8-9

What is a memorial?

Why might people have died?

Why do we need to remember them?

Pages 10-11

What does independence mean?

How do people celebrate Independence Day?

Pages 12-15

Ask children to tell what they know about the native people in America before Columbus's arrival and if they know who the pilgrims were.

Page 16

List holidays that are children's favorites. Discuss any special customs that go with those days.

Respond

- Explain what proper nouns are and that they begin with capital letters. Ask children to find the proper nouns in the text and write them down.
- Discuss the use of apostrophes in possessives. Ask the children to find the possessives in the text and to think of other holiday names that have possessives.

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Presidents' Day	Valentine's Day	
America's	Mother's Day	
Columbus's	New Year's Day	



Holidays and Months Activity Master, page 76

Have children use the text to help them match the holidays with their months on the Activity Master, page 76.



Meeting Individual Needs

For specific teaching strategies for meeting individual needs, see pages 198-203.

Social Studies Focus

Social Studies Concept

Holidays are times to remember and celebrate people and events of the past.

Activities

Match the Holidays

Make a class calendar of the months of the year and invite children to record their names in the month in which they celebrate their birthdays. Ask

children to write in all the special holidays to show in which month they are celebrated. Children can add other special days.

Let the Celebration Begin!

Prepare posters, hats, and decorations in preparation for celebrating one of the holidays mentioned in the text.



Favorite Holiday Activity Master, page 77

Have children select their favorite holidays from those discussed in the book. They can then write the reasons for their choices on the Activity Master, page 77.

Name _____

Holidays

Write the correct holiday on the line. Use the book to help you.

1. The holiday in January is _____.

2. The holiday in February is _____.

3. The holiday in May is _____.

4. The holiday in July is _____.

5. The holiday in October is _____.

6. The holiday in November is _____.

Draw what you do to celebrate one of these holidays.

Name _____

H o l i d a y s

Name your favorite holiday. Then tell why you like it.

My favorite holiday is _____
