

LET'S CELEBRATE DAYCAMP

Take a trip around the world and discover different celebrations through music, games, stories, and crafts.

SUPPLIES - GENERAL

- Scissors, glue, crayons, markers, paint, etc.

ACTIVITY: CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year is a holiday that celebrates the beginning of a new year according to the Lunar calendar. The Lunar New Year is determined by the various cycles of the moon and does not have a fixed date. It typically falls somewhere between January 21st and February 20th. In 2020, Lunar New Year was on Saturday, January 25th.

Chinese New Year is the most important of the Chinese holidays, and it is a time of feasting with the family, celebrations, fireworks, and gift-giving. Chinese children are given little red and gold envelopes containing money known as lucky money. The Chinese believe that red and gold are lucky colors. The holiday is focused on bringing good luck for the New Year and celebrating the coming of Spring.

In Vancouver, Chinese New Year ends with a full day of celebrations in historic Chinatown. There is a parade that has been around since 1979 and it includes the largest Lion Dance team in Canada. There is also a spring festival and cultural fair at Sun Yat-Sen plaza (a traditional garden near Chinatown), followed by a banquet dinner and entertainment.

- Look online at images of the parade, Lion dance and garden

ACTIVITY: CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE

Cherry blossom trees are a symbol of spring and new beginnings. A cherry blossom in Chinese culture is a symbol of feminine beauty and dominance. Vancouver has an annual Cherry Blossom Festival every Spring and you can view the trees throughout the city.

1. Twist 2 different lengths of chenille stems together to make it look like branches.
2. Lay the branches flat on the table and layer with white glue. Do not put glue on the stem.
3. Scrunch small pink and white tissue paper squares and then glue them to the branches. Leave some spaces between the flowers. Let dry.
4. When everything is dry, insert the branches into a painted Styrofoam ball base.

Supplies:

- Pink, white, red tissue paper
- Brown chenille stems
- Styrofoam ball cut in half
- Brown paint
- White glue



ACTIVITY: ST. PATRICKS DAY

March 17th is celebrated in honor of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Some cities have parades, people wear green, there are symbols of shamrocks and leprechauns, and some families eat traditional Irish food. This includes the potato, soda bread which is a yeast free bread, and bacon and cabbage. These are reflective of Ireland's folklore, culture, and national identity. St. Patrick's Day was first publicly celebrated in Boston in 1737 where there was a large population of Irish immigrants. The first St. Patrick's Day parade in the Irish Free State was held in Dublin in 1931. St. Patrick's Day has slowly evolved from a religious holiday when St. Patrick, a missionary in Ireland, was canonized by the church on March 17th; to become more of a celebration of Irish heritage.

- Look at images of St. Patrick's Day festivities



ACTIVITY: LEPRECHAUN TRAP

In all the Leprechaun legends, the Leprechauns' main trade is a cobbler or shoemaker. They worked very hard and were thrifty, and so they accumulated a lot of gold. Irish folklore suggests that their pots of gold are buried at the end of a rainbow. Leprechauns are magical creatures that can be very tricky to catch; but if you do catch them, they must help you find their gold.

1. Using various supplies and your imagination, create a leprechaun trap. Include ladders, nets, rainbows etc.

Supplies:

- Gold coins
- Glitter
- Small containers
- Glitter chenille stems
- Netting material
- Green glitter
- Popsicle sticks
- Cotton balls
- Green and gold construction paper
- Silk or foam flowers
- Thick cardboard or foam board for bases
- Green basket stuffing
- Shamrocks
- Anything you can find around the house



ACTIVITY: THE CANADIAN FLAG

The Canadian flag as we know it was created by George Stanley, and was approved by Canada's 14th Prime Minister, Lester B. Pearson and Parliament on December 16, 1964. It was authorized by Queen Elizabeth 2 on February 15, 1965 when it was raised on Parliament Hill in Ottawa for the very first time.

The colours of white and red are the colours assigned to Canada by King George V through his proclamation in 1921, which granted a Coat of Arms to Canada. These colours symbolize strength, purity, and historically they are traditional colours of England and France.

The Maple Leaf has been a symbol of Canada since the 18th century. It celebrates the nature and environment of Canada. Canada is the only country in the world with a maple leaf on its flag.

- Look at some images of the Canadian Flag through the years

ACTIVITY: CANADIAN RAINBOW LOOM BRACELET

1. Take one band and make an infinity sign or an eight around your index and middle finger. Then put two more bands around the two fingers normally. Alternate the red and white colours.
2. Take the bottom band and bring it to the top. Do this on both sides. Then add another band. ALWAYS HAVE 3 BANDS ON YOUR FINGERS.
3. Keep going until the bracelet is as long as you want, and it fits.
4. Using the 'C' or 'S' clips, take the two sides that were on the fingers and put them on a clip. Go to the bottom and hook it as well.

Supplies:

- Red and white rainbow loom bands
- 1 'C' or 'S' clip per child
- One hand



ACTIVITY: DIA DE MUERTOS PAPEL PICADO

Dia de Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a holiday celebrated throughout Mexico and around the world in other cultures. The holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember those who have passed. The celebration takes place on October 31, November 1 and November 2, in connection with All Hallows' Eve, Halloween, and All Souls Day. Traditions connected with the holiday include building private altars with ofrendas (a collection of objects on a ritual display) and honoring the deceased using sugar skulls, marigolds, and leaving their favorite foods and beverages on their graves as gifts.

- Look at some images of Dia de Muertos and sugar skulls
- Watch Disney's, *Coco*

Papel Picado are typically hung on buildings, placed in yards, on windows, ceilings, and altars. Typical colours used on the banners for the Day of the Dead are pink, orange and purple. The most famous traditional Picado come from the Mexican villages of San Salvador Huixcolotla, and Puebla.

1. Cut designs into the paper or tissue paper.
2. Colour and decorate 3 Papel Picado sheets.
3. Place a long strip of ribbon evenly along the top of the Picado sheets. Fold over a bit of the top, and tape. Now it can hang.

Supplies:

- Coloured tissue paper or white paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Masking tape
- Ribbon



ACTIVITY: LA CATRINA

La Catrina is one of the most recognizable symbols of Dia de Muertos. She is a tall female skeleton that wears a dress and fancy hat.

Look at some images of La Catrina

1. One person is “It” and the other must sit or lay as motionless and expressionless as La Catrina.
 2. The person who is “It” must do whatever they can to make La Catrina smile, giggle, or wiggle in any way without touching them!
 3. If they move, they become “It”.
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ACTIVITY: DIWALI

Diwali is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs to mark historical events, stories or myths; they all spiritually mark the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, hope over despair.

Diwali is celebrated by Hindus in October or November. It is the Hindu New Year and is either a 3-day or 5-day holiday. It is more of a national festival, regardless of faith. Windows are opened in homes so that the Hindu goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, can enter. It is believed that she cannot enter a house which is not lit up, so every household burns Diwali clay lamps (diyas) to light the way.

The holiday is also known as the Festival of Lights. Lamps also represent the inner light that protects us from spiritual darkness.

Hindus and Sikhs regard it as a celebration of life and use the occasion to strengthen family and social relationships. It is their biggest and most important holiday of the year.

The 5 days of Diwali:

- On the first day of Diwali, housewives consider it auspicious to spring clean the home and shop for gold or kitchen utensils.
- On the second day, people decorate their homes with diyas and create rangoli patterns on the floor using coloured powders or sand.
- The third day is the main day of the festival when families gather together for Lakshmi puja, a prayer to Goddess Lakshmi followed by feasts and fireworks.
- The fourth day is the first day of the new year when friends and relatives visit with gifts and best wishes for the season.
- On the last day of Diwali, brothers visit their married sisters who welcome them with love and a lavish meal.

Look at some images of Rangoli, and Diwali celebrations

ACTIVITY: DIYA COLLAGE CARD

Once upon a time there was a great warrior, Prince Rama, who had a beautiful wife named Sita. There was also a terrible demon king, Ravana. He had twenty arms and ten heads, and was feared throughout the land. He wanted to make Sita his wife, and one day he kidnapped her and took her away in his chariot. Clever Sita left a trail of her jewellery for Rama to follow. Rama followed the trail of glittering jewellery until he met the monkey king, Hanuman, who became his friend and agreed to help find Sita. Messages were sent to all the monkeys in the world, and through them to all the bears, who set out to find Sita.

After a very long search, Hanuman found Sita imprisoned on an island. Rama's army of monkeys and bears couldn't reach the island, so they began to build a bridge. Soon all the animals of the world, large and small, came to help. When the bridge was built, they rushed across it and fought a mighty battle.

When Rama killed the evil Ravana with a magic arrow, the whole world rejoiced. Rama and Sita began their long journey back to their land, and everybody lit oil lamps to guide them on their way and welcome them back.

Ever since, people light lamps at Diwali to remember that light triumphs over dark and good triumphs over evil.

1. Fold a piece of construction paper in half.
2. Cut 3 'diyas' from different types of paper. Glue them to the card.
3. Cut 3 'flames' from yellow or gold paper or card. Glue them on to the card above the diyas.
4. You can further embellish your card with glue and sequins.

Supplies:

- Construction paper
- Fancy design papers or use white paper and draw your own designs
- Yellow paper
- Sequins/embellishments

