



NIE Winter Holiday Activities

ART

During the holiday season, many gifts are exchanged between friends and family. Students can use the eEdition (including advertisements and regular content) to create personal wish lists.

- First, have students pick five items they'd like to receive, then five items they would like to give.
- Allow students to print out and paste these items into an attractive collage.
- Students can print out letters from the eEdition (or use their own artistic flair) to create an appropriate title for their collages.

CAREER EDUCATION:

Retail establishments are very busy throughout December. Use the eEdition to find examples of other businesses that are impacted positively or negatively by the holidays

- What jobs can you find that would ONLY exist during the holiday season?
- Are there any jobs can you find that would NOT be affected in any way by the holiday season?
- Which of the jobs do you think you would enjoy most? Least?

ENGLISH/ LANGUAGE ARTS:

Christmas is the most widely known and celebrated holiday in December, but many other holidays also occur in this season. Use the eEdition to find examples of some of these other holidays.

- Write a persuasive essay encouraging your classmates to celebrate another winter holiday (either in addition to or in place of Christmas).
- Use the eEdition to research more about the holiday you've chosen to promote and utilize outside sources to locate additional details.



NIE Winter Holiday Activities

GEOGRAPHY:

Although many people wish for a "white Christmas," use today's weather map from the eEdition to locate areas in our country where a white Christmas might occur.

- If you decided to drive to one of these areas during the holidays, what route would you take?
- How many miles would you be traveling?
- What scenic features (mountains, rivers, etc.) would you cross on your journey?
- What states would you pass on your way there?
- If you decided you want to AVOID snow on Christmas, where would you most likely visit? Answer the same questions for your new travel plans.
- Use the weather map in today's eEdition to describe the weather condition for each of the cities you have chosen.

HISTORY:

The New Year is fast approaching.

- What do you think will be historically the most important things that happened in 2019?
- Use the eEdition to locate stories you think will still matter in 2020 and even further into the future.
- Based on what you've found in the eEdition, what are the five items you most think deserve a spot in a 2019 time capsule?
- Write an essay to explain your decisions.
- Use the eEdition to decide how to write a good headline.



NIE Winter Holiday Activities

MATHEMATICS:

The month of December traditionally has more advertising than other months of the year.

- Work with a partner or two to determine how many column inches of advertising are included in one section of today's eEdition.
- Now determine how many column inches are devoted to editorial content (stories or photos).
- Compare the two numbers: what percentage of that section's content is advertising and what percentage is news?
- When your class has completed this job, compile your numbers and determine which section has the most advertising and which has the most news.
- Create a graph to compare these numbers.

You've been assigned to make the Holiday feast at your house this year, using only \$50. Use the grocery ads and any published recipes to decide what you'll make. Since this is your Holiday feast, you're welcome to be creative in what you cook. Decide on a main course, at least two side dishes and a dessert. Use the grocery ads to determine the

following:

- The total cost to purchase the ingredients needed, including the appropriate sales tax for your community (remember your \$50 budget!)
- The percentage of your funds that will be spent on each item in your meal-the main course, both side dishes and the desert.

MUSIC:

Well-written articles are often very lyrical.

- Work with a couple of students to find a story in today's eEdition that you think would make a good song.
- Make a list of main points for the story and especially note any sentences or phrases that you think might work "as-is" in your song.
- Use a popular holiday tune to set your song to music, then share your song with the class.



NIE Winter Holiday Activities

NEWSPAPER KNOWLEDGE:

A good newspaper includes a wide array of topics and materials each day.

- What topics do you find in today's eEdition that probably wouldn't occur in other months?
- Create a list and see how many December-specific stories you find.
- Write down the word: W I N T E R down the left-hand side of a piece of paper, then search the eEdition for articles, advertising or photos that begin with each letter. Write a phrase to describe the words' significance to today's news and identify where you found it in the eEdition.

SCIENCE & HEALTH:

As the weather gets colder, we know cold and flu season is upon us.

- What are some specific steps you can take to avoid being sick during your winter vacation?
- Compile a class list of ideas and coordinate with your class to make a list to post in your class bulletin board and distribute to other classrooms throughout the school.

Many fitness clubs and weight-loss programs encourage people not to overindulge during the holidays. But, because it always happens, those same organizations count on increasing their membership as soon as Christmas is over!

- Develop a strategy to help your family stay active and healthy this holiday season.
- Use grocery ads to design a healthier menu for your family's holiday meals.
- Also look in today's eEdition for physical activities your family can enjoy together during your holiday.



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SOCIAL STUDIES:

Holidays are celebrated differently throughout the world

- Pick a country outside of the United States and research what December celebrations might be like there.
- Using a current holiday eEdition article as a guide, write a feature story about your chosen country and holiday. Be sure to include an attention-grabbing headline and lead!

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

More people are interested in helping others during the holidays than at any other time of the year.

- Create a bulletin board that details organizations in your area that could use community support (print from the eEdition).
- As a class, choose a group you'd like to help.
- Because many organizations need help year-round, determine what your class can do AFTER the holidays to help as well.
- Your contribution could be as simple as designing artwork for their buildings or as complicated as a fundraising drive.

Some people in our communities need help with food donations over the holidays.

- Look through the eEdition for examples of organizations that are requesting holiday food donations.
- Hold a canned food drive at your school and donate the food to the charity your classroom chooses. OR: Look in the eEdition for words and or phrases that remind you of Christmas (or other religious affiliation). Use those words and phrases to design decorations (banners, placemats, etc.) for an area homeless shelter or soup kitchen.
- If possible, schedule time for members of your class to hand deliver the items. If not, be sure to mail them in plenty of time to arrive at the organization before the holiday arrives.



NIE Winter Holiday Activities

JUST FOR FUN:

Go on a newspaper/eEdition scavenger hunt! It shouldn't be hard to find holiday-related items in this month's news. Write down the page you find these items and time yourself as you look for the following:

- A holiday article or photo that is NOT about Christmas.
- A place you'd really like to visit during your vacation.
- An example of a gift you'd really like to receive.
- A word or phrase that you think best exemplifies this season.
- A classified advertisement for something holiday-related.
- A photo that reminds you of winter.
- A food you'd like to eat during the holidays.
- A sporting event that will occur during your winter vacation.
- Information about a Holiday-related event in your area.
- A story about someone helping others.
- A Christmas tree, Menorah, Santa or other symbols of holiday traditions.