



Teams of 3-4 students will use the Engineering Design process to study Christmas traditions around the world.

Individual students will write an expository essay on outlining/explaining a Christmas tradition from their assigned country. Individual students will also be responsible to turn in a Cultural Christmas folder.

Teams will collaboratively design a table display that showcases their country's flag, location on a map, Christmas traditions, Christmas greeting in spoken language, and include a creative element. Student cohorts should be prepared to talk to "visitors" about their displays and the research they have conducted.

What is a creative element?: The sky is the limit for creative elements! Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Photo collage of Christmas traditions
- Dress in traditional garb of the assigned country
- Prepare a food item traditionally eaten in the country for Christmas (please be mindful/respectful of various food allergies that exist in the classroom: bananas, nuts, berries and gluten). If you cook, exercise those creative juices!
- Learn traditional Christmas song/dance from the country
- Poster
- Ornaments
- Whatever your team can think of!

Expository Essay: The essay will be a minimum of 3 paragraphs (introductory paragraph, 1-2 body paragraphs, and conclusion). **The topic should be a Christmas tradition from the assigned country.**

Grading:

While students will work in collaborative cohorts, they will be graded on their individual performance and contribution to their team. Students receive three separate grades for table display/teamwork, the expository essay, and the Cultural Christmas folder. Rubrics are attached.

These grades will be recorded for **BOTH** Social Studies and English Language Arts! It is important to give your best work!

## **DUE DATE: Thursday, December 18th!**

All work is due on December 18th. Items submitted after this date will not receive full credit.



*The only exception: if a group chooses to make food to be consumed for their creative element they may bring it on Friday when we showcase the table displays.*



## Grading Rubrics

### Expository Writing Rubric

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

	-1- Needs Improvement	-2- Fair	-3- Good	-4- Excellent
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Topic grabs the reader and the introductory sentence contains great supporting details with good use of vocabulary.</p>				
<p><b>Body</b></p> <p>Each paragraph sentence provides relevant and specific details.</p> <p>Each ending sentence leads to the next topic paragraph idea. <i>(Transitional)</i></p> <p>All supporting details relate to the topic idea.</p>				
<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Paragraphs are summed up. The conclusion provides a good ending and leaves the reader satisfied.</p>				
<p><b>Vocabulary Organization, Grammar</b></p> <p>Sentence structure, spelling, word choice, mechanics, conventions.</p>				

Overall Score \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Christmas Portfolio



	One Star 1 pts D	Two Stars 2 pts C	Three Stars 3 pts B	Four Stars 4 pts A
<b>Portfolio Content</b>	One Star My journal has 25% of the required pages	Two Stars My journal has 50% of the required pages	Three Stars My journal has 75% of the required pages	Four Stars My journal has all journal pages!
<b>Time Management</b>	One Star I met 25% the deadlines for this project. .	Two Stars I met 50% the deadlines for this project.	Three Stars I met 75% the deadlines for this project.	Four Stars I met all the deadlines for this project.
<b>Following instructions</b>	One Star My portfolio is 25% in the correct order according to the instructions.	Two Stars My portfolio is 50% in the correct order according to the instructions.	Three Stars My portfolio is 75% in the correct order according to the instructions.	Four Stars My portfolio is 100% in the correct order according to the instructions.
<b>LEGIBILITY</b>	One Star Not legible. Hard to read. Ideas expressed are difficult to understand.	Two Stars Slightly legible. Writing illustrates little thought or preparation.	Three Stars Mostly neat and legible Writing illustrates some thought and preparation.	Four Stars Very neat. Writing illustrates a lot of thought and preparation.!

Table Display				
	Poor 1 pts D	Fair 2 pts C	Good 3 pts B	Excellent 4 pts A
<b>Engagement</b>	Poor Student does not attempt the assignment. Student does not try his/her best.	Fair Student gives very little attention to the assignment and focuses on socializing. Student does not try his/her best.	Good Active attempt is made to achieve the minimum requirements. Student gives assignment some of his/her attention. Student sometimes tries his/her best.	Excellent Student always stays focused on the assignment and always tries his/her best. Student works at improving skills and understanding of subject matter.
<b>Teamwork</b>	Poor Student attempts to disengage from assignment and also draws other students into disengagement. Student is always negative.	Fair Student occasionally makes negative remarks about the assignment and/or about classmate's work.	Good Student is sometimes positive, engaged, enthusiastic and active during the assignment.	Excellent Student is always positive, engaged, enthusiastic and active during the assignment. Student encourages classmates as they work. Uses leadership skills.
<b>Assignment Elements</b>	Poor 25% (1 out of 4) required elements are present: -country's flag -location of country on a map -Christmas greeting in country's language -Christmas traditions -creative element	Fair 50% (2 out of 4) required elements are present: -country's flag -location of country on a map -Christmas greeting in country's language -Christmas traditions -creative element	Good 75% (3 out of 4) required elements are present: -country's flag -location of country on a map -Christmas greeting in country's language -Christmas traditions -creative element	Excellent 100% required elements are present: -country's flag -location of country on a map -Christmas greeting in country's language -Christmas traditions -creative element
<b>Construction/Design</b>	Poor Student has given "last minute" work in table display. Work is sloppy, has no organization and is poorly constructed.	Fair Student has given mediocre work in table display. Work is a little sloppy, has little organization and is not well constructed.	Good Student has given good work in table display. Work is neat, organized and constructed well.	Excellent Student has given their best work for the table display. Outstanding effort has been made. Work is very neat, extremely organized, and superbly constructed.

# CULTURAL CHRISTMAS

## 1. My teammates are:

a) Me!

b)

c)

d)

2. Our country is: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Checklist of table display elements:

- Country's flag
- Country's location on a map
- Christmas traditions from your country
- Christmas greeting in your country's language
- Creative element

## 4. To help my student cohort, I will work on:



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Expository Writing Checklist

### Introduction

1. Did you use 2 to 3 sentences to introduce the topic?
2. Did you introduce your topic with supporting details?
3. Do your supporting details completely relate to the topic?
4. Is your topic stated clearly?
5. Is your introductory paragraph catchy and does it engage the reader?

### Body

1. Do you have a paragraph for each of your 3-5 details?
2. Is each detail clearly stated at the beginning of each paragraph?
3. Did you back up each detail with facts?
4. Did you include closing remarks at the end of each paragraph and lead into the next paragraph?

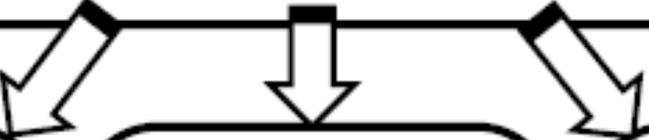
### Conclusion

1. Did you re-state your topic idea?
2. Did you finish with an ending that leaves the reader satisfied?
3. Did you summarize the previous paragraphs?

### Overall:

1. Does your expository writing inform the reader well about your topic?
2. Did you use informing details, facts and logic?
3. Do all your paragraphs relate well to your topic?
4. Have you really captured your reader's interest?
5. Have you left your readers with good information in some way?

Introduction



Topic Sentence

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Details:

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Topic Sentence

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Topic Sentence

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Conclusion



Dear Parents,

We are about to embark on a large social studies project for the holidays. It is important to me that students have global awareness and an appreciation for cultures outside of their own. They have been asked to work collaboratively with their peers to create a table display to showcase how Christmas is celebrated in different countries. They will also turn in individual expository essays covering a tradition from their assigned country.



I'm very excited to work on this huge project with your student! I know that your student has an expansive imagination and this project may seem costly. However, I'm challenging your student to use materials they already have at home or that can be found in the classroom. I'm urging them to think creatively and to repurpose items they can find (with your permission first!).

This project is less about the aesthetics of their display and focuses more on the application of the engineering design process, the power of collaboration, the value of quality research and the celebration of different cultures! I encourage you to support your student as they use the Engineering Design process to create and engineer their table displays. This project has been deliberately designed to challenge your student; they may get frustrated during the process, but learning academic resiliency and feeling the intrinsic reward of completing a big project will build a strong academic foundation!

Your student's project is due on Thursday, December 18th; this includes the table display, project folder and their expository essay. Ample time will be given in class, however, if your student needs more time, they will be encouraged to work on it at home. Late entries may be submitted, but will not receive full credit. Please support your student with time management!

Please contact me if you would like to volunteer on Thursday, December 18th or Friday, December 19th! On Friday, we would like to showcase our table displays to you, classmates and administrators. Please help us kick off our winter break by celebrating our hard work with a Cultural Christmas!

Educationally,

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