

Worksheet For: «Name»		Student ID: «StudentID»		WS ID:«WSID»
Date:		Start time:	End time:	
Overall %:	Score obtained: (Section Wise)	Reading	Language Arts	Vocabulary Builder
		_____ of 12	_____ of _____	_____ of _____

Reading (non-fiction): Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions:

Unique traditions, celebrations, and holidays occur around the world during December and January. Celebrations vary in different countries.

Chinese New Year is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. It falls on different dates each year, between January 21 and February 20. Visits to friends and family take place during this celebration. The color gold is said to bring wealth, and the color red is considered especially lucky. The New Year's Eve dinner is very large and includes fish, noodles, and dumplings.

Christmas is celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas in the United States brings together many customs from other countries and cultures. Around the world, family members help to decorate the tree and home with bright lights, wreaths, candles, holly, mistletoe, and ornaments. On Christmas Eve, many people go to church. Also on Christmas Eve, Santa comes from the North Pole in a sleigh to deliver gifts; in Hawaii, it is said he arrives by boat; in Australia, the jolly man arrives on water skis; and in Ghana, he comes out of the jungle.

Eid Al Adha, the Festival of the Sacrifice, is celebrated by Muslims on the 10th day of the month of the lunar calendar to commemorate the willingness of the prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his son for God. Today, Muslims sacrifice an animal – usually a goat or a sheep – as a reminder of Ibrahim's obedience to God. The meat is shared with family, friends Muslims or non-Muslims, as well as the poor members of the community.

Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah, a holiday honoring the Maccabees victory over King Antiochus, who forbade Jews to practice their religion. For eight nights, Hanukkah is celebrated with prayer, the lighting of the menorah, and food. A menorah has nine candles, a candle for every night, plus a helper candle. Children play games, sing songs, and exchange gifts. Potato pancakes, known as latkes in Yiddish, are traditionally associated with Hanukkah and are served with applesauce and sour cream.

On December 26, Kwanzaa is celebrated. It is a holiday to commemorate African heritage. Kwanzaa lasts a week during which participants gather with family and friends to exchange gifts and to light a series of black, red, and green candles, which symbolize the seven basic values of African American family.

(Adapted from National Geographic Kids)

1. When is the Chinese New Year celebrated? How is it celebrated?

2. The Chinese people eat fish, noodles and dumplings before their New Year day. True or false?

3. Which of the following quotes suggests that Christmas is the time for reunion in the US?

- a) Santa comes from the North Pole in a sleigh to deliver gifts; in Hawaii
- b) Christmas in the United States brings together many customs from other countries and cultures
- c) Christmas is celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ

d) Unique traditions, celebrations, and holidays occur around the world during December and January

4. The word nearest in meaning to the word "traditional" is

- a) customary
- b) modern
- c) unique
- d) rational

5. What does Santa do on the Christmas Eve? How does he arrive in different countries?

6. **To commemorate an event** means

- a) to celebrate
- b) to postpone
- c) to remember and honor
- d) to end

7. Which of the festivals mentioned in the passage is a festival of sacrifice? How is it celebrated?

8. The festival of Hanukkah is actually a festival to celebrate

- a) the victory of evil over the good
- b) the victory of good over the evil
- c) the victory of people
- d) the royal victory at a war

9-11. Write in brief what you know about the following words:

9. Menorah

10. Kwanzaa

11. Latkes

12. Which of the following sentences sum up the passage?

- a) Celebrations vary in different countries
- b) Symbolizing the seven basic values of African American family
- c) Unique traditions, celebrations, and holidays occur around the world during December and January
- d) Christmas is celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ