

# Create Your Own Holiday

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

My holiday is: \_\_\_\_\_

This holiday is celebrated on (date): \_\_\_\_\_

## Be Curious

Discuss the following questions with your family.

### History:

1. What is the history of this holiday?
2. Why does your family enjoy celebrating it?
3. Who else celebrates it? Why?

### Activities:

1. What activities are part of the holiday celebration? Think about:
  - a. Family activities
  - b. Community activities
  - c. Speeches
  - d. Music
  - e. Dancing
2. Which activities do you enjoy most? Why?

### Symbols and Decorations:

1. What symbols are associated with this holiday?
2. Are decorations used? If so, what type and where are they placed?

### Foods:

1. What special foods are prepared to celebrate this holiday?
2. What time of day are these foods eaten?
3. Who is invited to holiday meals? Why?

# Be Creative

Choose one of the foods served on this holiday and prepare it for your family.

1. The food I chose was: \_\_\_\_\_

2. The recipe is: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Draw a picture of the finished recipe.

# Holiday Terminology

Is there special terminology related to this holiday? Choose at least five terms and write their definitions below.

[illegible]

# Help Others Understand Your Holiday

Suppose that you've been asked to explain your holiday to someone who doesn't celebrate it. Choose one of the following communication methods and prepare an explanation.

1. Create a poster using words and pictures.
2. Write a newspaper or magazine article. Include text and pictures.
3. Film a video. Use one of the following:
  - a. An “on the scene” reporter visiting a home where the holiday is being celebrated
  - b. An interview with someone who celebrates the holiday
  - c. A “day in the life” of a family celebrating the holiday
  - d. A documentary about the holiday

## Reflect on the Skills You Used

You used many skills to put together your holiday. Can you articulate what they were?

1. What reading, math, science, or research skills did you use?
2. What hospitality and social interaction skills did you use?
3. What did you do that improved your communication skills?
4. What other skills can you think of?

# About This Activity

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this activity is to promote your child's interest in a holiday that is especially enjoyed by your family. The *A Boy Learns to Bake* series addresses six holidays that are likely to be celebrated by all citizens and residents of the United States. Not all celebrations are covered. There is plenty of room for your child to create their own holiday following the format of the *A Boy Learns to Bake* books.

To facilitate this activity, do the following:

1. Assist the child in selecting a holiday. In addition to other holidays celebrated in America, consider those that are important to your family's cultural heritage and your faith tradition.
2. Once the holiday is selected, review the steps with the child and help them schedule each one. They may work on the activity over several days or even several weeks.
3. Discuss the "Be Curious" questions with your child.
4. In "Be Creative," assist the child in selecting a recipe to make. Ensure that their selection is suitable to their skill level.
5. In "Holiday Terminology," assist the child in selecting five terms unique to this holiday. Help them research the definitions.
6. In "Help Others Understand Your Holiday," assist the child in producing their explanation. If a video is selected, use the simplest tools possible, likely a smart phone or a tablet.
7. In "Reflect on the Skills You Used," assist the child in identifying and describing the skills they used to complete the activity. Use open-ended questions to help them identify and describe the following skills:
  - a. Learning about a holiday using multi-sensory methods: discussion, reading, cooking, writing, drawing, using media equipment.
  - b. Developing a better understanding of a cultural or faith tradition.
  - c. Developing a better understanding of the activities, symbols, and decorations related to the holiday.
  - d. Developing the cooking skills needed to contribute to future holiday celebrations. Using reading and math to prepare a recipe. Using visual and motor skills to complete a cooking activity.

- e. Developing the ability to concisely describe the holiday to someone who is unfamiliar with it. Using thinking and writing skills.
- f. Scheduling each part of the activity to contribute to its overall completion. Using planning skills.
- g. Choosing activity options and locating the resources needed to complete them. Using decision-making skills.
- h. Demonstrating responsibility by completing the activity.
- i. Experiencing enjoyment and a sense of accomplishment.

Enjoy Your Holiday!