

ESL

Professional Development...

It's December, a time to welcome winter and the diverse holidays this time of year brings! As ESL teachers, teaching American culture is integral to our role. Something to consider is, how do we decide what aspects we teach and how to include our students' diverse cultures into our lessons?

Culturally responsive teaching involves "connecting academics to students' daily lives, cultural backgrounds, and concerns in ways to support engagement, achievement and empowerment" (Muniz, 2021). For more reading on this topic check out the multiple hours section.

I have... 10 minutes

In 10 minutes...

Discuss winter holidays through a read-aloud that addresses how holidays around the world use lights with the article "[Nights of Light](#)" on Readworks. Use the pre-vocabulary activity, prior to reading. Try the [echo-reading method](#), a method that targets fluency and allows readers to repeat sections of the reading after you model it. This is a strategy that will allow beginner readers to develop fluency skills in English. Alternatively, this can be done as in small groups.

I have... 30 minutes

In 30 minutes...

Create a classroom survey to find out how many students celebrate each of the holidays. Allow students to interview one another to find the results. Gather the data, and allow students to discuss the results by providing sentence frames, such as "many students celebrate..." or "the least popular holiday is...". Follow up with a writing prompt that allows students to reflect on their experiences. How do these holidays compare to your own traditions?

I have... 1 hour

In 1 hour...

Use the Change Agent's collection, [The Joys and Challenges of the Holidays](#), to compare different celebrations and employ the CCR Standard of citing evidence to find what the author says and to complete the graphic organizer. Integrate writing and challenge your students to use the evidence they collected to write a claim about the evidence that they gathered. Offer sentence frames to scaffold for students that will require more support in completing the topic sentence and allow more proficient students to complete a paragraph.

I have... multiple hours

If you have more time...

Take a look at the [Culturally Responsive Teaching: A Reflection Guide](#) to find out more about how to incorporate the 8 competencies into your daily teaching.

Have questions, need assistance, or for more information contact Dalia Assem, ESL Consultant, at assem@edadvance.org.