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Lesson Plan: Holiday Traditions: Then and Now (grades 6-8)

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Lesson Plan

Course / Grade Level:

- ELA/Grade 7

Topic/Title:

- Holiday Traditions: Then and Now

Historical Time Period(s):

- Expansion and Reform

Thematic Question:

- How do holiday observances reflect a particular culture in society during two specific time periods?

Standards/Benchmarks/Indicators:

- Common Core Writing Standards 6-12
 4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Materials/Resources:

1. Computer
2. Library
3. Camera
4. Family Members
5. Poster Board
6. Crayons/Markers
7. Glue

Motivation (Attention Grabber):

1. The teacher will show several slides of various winter holiday symbols (e.g. Christmas Tree, Menorah, Gifts, Turkey, Snowflakes, Santa Claus, etc.) and ask class what they represent as well as their similarities and differences.
2. The teacher will read A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens to the class.

Activities:

1. The students will research Christmas holiday traditions during the 1840's.
2. The students will interview family members about their holiday traditions.

3. The students will document family holiday traditions through photographs.
4. The students will compare celebrations of Christmas holiday traditions during the 1840's with their present day family traditions.

Assessment:

1. The students will assemble all the material collected onto a poster board under the title *Holiday Traditions: Then and Now*
2. Students will write a final paper comparing the two holiday traditions.