

Lesson Plan: Mirabelle's Winter Holiday Adventure

Subject: Social Studies, Arts & Crafts, Language Arts

Grade Level: Kindergarten/First Grade (Age 6)

Duration: Two 45-60 minute sessions

Learning Objectives

By the end of this two-day lesson, Mirabelle will be able to:

- Identify at least one symbol for three different winter holidays (e.g., Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa).
- Describe one tradition associated with a winter holiday celebration.
- Create a holiday-themed craft that represents the spirit of giving.
- Explain why sharing and kindness are important parts of holidays.

Materials Needed

Day 1: Holiday Symbols & Stories

- Large paper or poster board for a collage
- Construction paper (red, green, white, blue, yellow, black)
- Child-safe scissors
- Glue stick
- Crayons or markers
- Pictures or simple drawings of holiday symbols (Christmas tree, stocking, menorah, dreidel, kinara, unity cup)
- A children's book about different winter celebrations (e.g., "The Kindness of Crocodiles" by Crockett Johnson or a similar title about diverse holidays)

Day 2: The Spirit of Giving

- Blank card or folded construction paper
- Stickers, glitter, crayons, or other decorating supplies
- Ingredients for simple no-bake cookies (e.g., Oreos, cream cheese, chocolate for melting) OR pre-made sugar cookies and frosting/sprinkles
- A small paper plate or bag for gifting the cookies
- A speaker for playing festive music

DAY 1: Exploring Holiday Traditions

Introduction (5 minutes)

- **Hook:** Start by asking, "Mirabelle, what is your favorite part about winter? When it gets chilly

outside, people all over the world have special, happy days they celebrate with their families. These are called holidays! What special things does our family do during the Christmas season?"

- **Objectives:** "Today, we're going on an adventure to learn about some amazing winter holidays! We're going to be detectives and find special symbols for Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. By the end of our adventure, you'll be able to spot these symbols and tell me one thing about them."

Body (30-40 minutes)

Part 1: Discovering Holiday Symbols (I do, We do)

- **I do (5 mins):** "I'm going to show you some pictures. This is a Christmas tree. Many families decorate it with lights and ornaments to celebrate Christmas. This is a menorah. It's a candle holder with nine candles that families light to celebrate Hanukkah. And this is a kinara. It holds seven candles, and it's a special symbol for the holiday of Kwanzaa." Briefly explain each symbol in simple, positive terms.
- **We do (10 mins):** "Now let's look at this book together." Read a story about different winter celebrations. As you read, point to the symbols. "Look, Mirabelle, do you see a menorah on this page? What is happening in this picture with the Christmas tree?" Pause and ask questions to engage her. After the story, lay out the pictures of the symbols. "Can you help me find the Christmas tree? Great! Now, can you find the kinara?" Play a quick matching game.

Part 2: Holiday Symbols Collage (You do)

- **Instructions (15-25 mins):** "Now it's your turn to be the artist! You are going to create a beautiful Winter Holiday collage. Your job is to make sure you include at least one special symbol for each holiday we learned about: Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. You can draw them or cut them out from this colored paper and glue them on."
- **Scaffolding (Differentiation):** For a simpler activity, have pre-cut shapes of the symbols ready for her to glue. For a challenge, encourage her to draw other things she saw in the book, like presents or special foods.
- **Success Criteria:** A successful collage will have:
 1. At least one Christmas symbol (like a tree or stocking).
 2. At least one Hanukkah symbol (like a menorah or dreidel).
 3. At least one Kwanzaa symbol (like a kinara or unity cup).
 4. Lots of color and creativity!
- **Formative Assessment:** While she works, ask, "Tell me about what you are adding to your collage. What holiday is that for?" This checks her understanding in real-time.

Conclusion (5 minutes)

- **Recap:** "Mirabelle, your collage is amazing! Let's hang it up. Show me one symbol you included for Christmas. Now one for Hanukkah. And one for Kwanzaa. You did a fantastic job being a holiday detective today!"
- **Summative Assessment:** Her ability to point out and name one symbol for each holiday on her completed collage demonstrates she has met the learning objective for the day.

DAY 2: The Spirit of Giving & Celebrating

Introduction (5 minutes)

- **Hook:** "Good morning, Mirabelle! Yesterday we learned about what makes holidays LOOK special, like trees and candles. Today, we're going to talk about what makes holidays FEEL special. What's one of the best feelings during the holidays? Getting a gift is fun, but did you know GIVING a gift can feel even better? It's like giving someone a hug with your hands!"
- **Objectives:** "Today, we are going to become official holiday helpers! Our mission is to make a special gift for someone to show we care about them. By the end, you'll have made a beautiful card and a yummy treat, and you'll be able to tell me why giving is such an important part of the holidays."

Body (30-40 minutes)

Part 1: The Gift of Kindness (I do, We do)

- **I do (5 mins):** "I am going to make a card for someone special. First, I'll fold the paper. Then, I'll draw a picture on the front that I think will make them smile. On the inside, I'll write their name and my name. Making things for people shows them we are thinking of them." Model the steps simply.
- **We do (10 mins):** "Let's think together. Who is someone we could give a special holiday surprise to? (e.g., Daddy, Grandma, a neighbor). Why would that make them happy? Great ideas! Now, let's get our hands messy and make a sweet treat! We are going to make some Kindness Cookies together. Your job is to help me stir/sprinkle/decorate." Guide her through a simple cookie decorating or making process while festive music plays. Talk about how you're "adding love" with each sprinkle.

Part 2: Creating Your Gift (You do)

- **Instructions (15-25 mins):** "Okay, holiday helper, it's your turn! I want you to decorate this card for the person we chose. Use stickers, colors, and lots of creativity to make them feel special! While you do that, I'll put your yummy cookies in this little bag. Your mission is to make the card as cheerful as possible!"
- **Scaffolding (Differentiation):** For a simpler activity, provide stencils or lots of stickers. For a challenge, encourage her to try writing a word like "Love" or the person's name with help.
- **Success Criteria:** A successful gift will have:
 1. A card with a colorful drawing or decorations.
 2. Her name written or traced on it.
 3. A happy attitude while making it!
- **Formative Assessment:** As she decorates, ask, "What picture are you drawing? Why did you choose those colors for them?"

Conclusion (5 minutes)

- **Recap & Reflection:** "Mirabelle, look at this wonderful gift you made! You made a card AND a treat. How do you feel knowing this will make someone else smile?"
- **Summative Assessment:** Ask her the final question: "Who is your gift for, and why is it nice to give people gifts during the holidays?" Her ability to name the recipient and connect giving with making someone happy (kindness, love) shows she has met the day's objective.
- **Closing:** "You were an amazing holiday helper today. You learned that holidays aren't just about decorations; they are about sharing kindness and love with our families and friends. Let's go give your special gift!"