

## Materials

- Books or articles detailing Christmas traditions in various countries (e.g., Mexico, Germany, Sweden, Australia, Ethiopia)
- World map or globe
- Notebook or paper
- Pencils, crayons, or markers
- Optional: Craft supplies (construction paper, scissors, glue) for making ornaments or flags
- Optional: Ingredients for a simple international Christmas recipe

## Introduction: Christmas Passport! (10 mins)

"Imagine you have a magical passport that can take you anywhere in the world instantly! Today, we're going on a whirlwind tour to see how different countries celebrate Christmas. Why do you think different places might celebrate the same holiday in unique ways? Let's find our starting points on the map!"

## Activity 1: Reading Adventure (25 mins)

Choose 2-3 countries to explore (e.g., Mexico, Germany, Sweden). Read aloud together or have the student read independently about the Christmas traditions in each country. As you read, pause to discuss:

- What are the main traditions mentioned? (e.g., Las Posadas in Mexico, St. Lucia Day in Sweden, Christmas Markets in Germany)
- Are there special foods associated with the celebration?
- Who brings the gifts? (Santa Claus, Father Christmas, Christkind, Befana?)
- When does the main celebration take place?

Jot down key facts for each country in the notebook.

## Activity 2: Compare & Contrast Chart (15 mins)

Draw a simple chart with columns for each country studied and rows for different aspects (e.g., Traditions, Food, Gift Giver, Date). Fill in the chart using the notes taken during reading. Discuss similarities and differences. "Which tradition sounds the most fun? Which is the most surprising?"

## Activity 3: Creative Celebration (10 mins)

Choose one:

1. Write a short paragraph pretending you visited one of the countries during Christmas. Describe what you saw and did.
2. Draw a picture illustrating a specific tradition learned about (e.g., children leaving shoes out for St. Nicholas, a St. Lucia procession).
3. Optional Craft: Make a simple ornament representing one country (e.g., a paper poinsettia for Mexico, a paper Dala horse for Sweden).

## **Wrap-up: Global Greetings! (5 mins)**

Review the countries visited on the map. Ask the student to share one new thing they learned about Christmas around the world. "Isn't it amazing how one holiday can be celebrated in so many unique and wonderful ways?"

Optional Extension: Try making a simple Christmas treat from one of the countries studied.