

**Unit Title:** Festivals of light from around the world

**Unit Summary:** Students will learn about world religions and festivals of light celebrated around the world. They will choose one festival to research and write about. They will present the festival of light in a visual way.

**Unit Objective:** To promote tolerance of other cultures and religions. Through this unit, students will learn that there are distinct religions, but that many cultures and holidays incorporate light into their celebrations.

**Subject Area(s):** Reading, Writing, Social Studies

**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup>

**Approximate time needed:** 4-6 weeks

**Global Perspective:** Investigate the world, Recognize perspective, communicate ideas

**Targeted Content Standards:**

Writing 1.1 The student understands and uses a writing process

Communication 3.1 Uses knowledge of topic/theme, audience, and purpose to plan presentations.

<b>Assessment:</b>	Before unit	During unit	After unit
<b>Observation:</b> Does student have an understanding that there are multiple cultures/religions?  Writing: Prior expository writing samples.		<b>Observation:</b> Does student apply newly developed research skills to find information from books and the internet?  Does student take notes using "key word notes" and without copying word for word?	Student presents information in a concise, engaging format.  Student publishes an essay, which is informative, organized, revised and edited.  Essay and presentation can be assessed.



	Does student write using paragraphs?	
<b>Accommodations for differentiated instruction:</b> Small group support, SPED teacher and ELL teacher		
Materials/Resources needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Books representing various festivals of light</li> <li>• Appropriate internet sources for research</li> <li>• Packet including timeline, key word notes, and outline of paper</li> <li>• Invitations to parents/guests to assist in presenting various festivals of light</li> </ul>		
<b>Content</b>	<b>Essential Questions</b>	<b>Skills</b>
The students will be introduced to the project. The teacher will read the book, "Celebrations of Light."	What are festivals of light? How can we learn about them?	Listening Inquiring Map Skills Comparing Contrasting Researching Note taking
Students will learn basic research skills.  Students will learn the names of the major world religions, where they originated and which festivals are associated with each religion or culture.  <b>Festivals to present:</b> <b>Buddhist:</b> Loi Krathong (Thailand) Buddha's birthday (Asia), O'bon (Japan), Lantern/Moon festival (China) <b>Hindu:</b> Diwali (India) <b>Christian:</b> Santa Lucia (Sweden), Las Posadas, México, Lyon (France), Parol (Phillipines)	What are the 5 major world religions?  What is the difference between a religious holiday and a cultural holiday?  What are some of the major festivals of light and where are they celebrated?	Expository writing Writing Process Group Work Presenting



<p><b>Jewish:</b> Hannukah (worldwide)</p> <p><b>Muslim:</b> Ramadan (worldwide, Egypt uses lanterns)</p> <p><b>Other:</b> Kwanzaa (U.S., cultural), Solstice (worldwide, Pagan origins), New Year's (Brazil, cultural)</p>		
<p>The teacher will present each festival of light on a different day, using visual supports (video, games, food, crafts).</p> <p>Guests who celebrate a festival of light will be invited to share with students.</p>	<p>What is the festival of light? What culture does it represent? Who celebrates it? How is similar to/different from other festivals of light?</p>	
<p>Students will come up with 3 research questions.</p> <p>Students will use books and other sources (internet, interviews) to answer the 3 questions.</p> <p>Students will learn how to take notes, using "key word notes."</p> <p>Students will write a 5 paragraph report on their festival of light.</p> <p>Students will create a visual aid (powerpoint, art piece, craft, etc. to present to the class)</p>		

