

5-Step Lesson Plan Template

Grades 6-8

Comparing Christmas Traditions in Greece and Nigeria





Standards:

CCCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.2a — Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2a — Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.2a — Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension

Objective:

Students will compare and contrast holiday traditions in Greece and Nigeria and write a paragraph explaining which country they would choose to travel to for the holidays.

Key Points:

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1. Holiday traditions around the world vary widely, but also have some things in common.
 2. Holiday traditions in all countries are valuable to their people.

Opening:

Introduce objective to students and ask them to think about why it is important to learn about traditions in other countries and cultures. Give them time to talk in pairs or small groups before discussing the topic as a class. Ask anyone who has been to another country during the holidays to share his/her experiences.

Introduction
of New Material:

Materials needed:

— Student notebooks

Ask students to define the term “tradition” in their own words. As a class, come up with a list of traditions you have as a class or as a school. Then, ask students to jot down a list of holiday traditions they have within their families or with their friends.

Guided Practice:

Materials needed:

— Chart paper

Ask two volunteers to share their lists of holiday traditions with the class. Using chart paper, create a class Venn Diagram that shows the similarities and differences between these two students’ holiday traditions.

Independent Practice:

Materials needed:

- "Christmas Around the World" page
- Venn Diagram

See "Christmas Around the World" page. Have students work independently or in pairs to read Alessia and Jabari's accounts, underlining key words and phrases that contribute to their understanding of the holiday traditions in each country. After finishing the reading and before completing the Venn Diagram, come together as a class to discuss students' understanding of the similarities and differences between holiday traditions in Greece and Nigeria.

Lesson Assessment:

Once students have had an opportunity to practice independently, how will they attempt to demonstrate mastery of the knowledge/skills required of the objective?

See "Where are You Going for the Holidays?" page. Students will use their Venn Diagrams to answer the prompt: "Pretend that you are given a free trip to spend the holidays in another part of the world. With whom would you rather celebrate: Alessia or Jabari? Write a paragraph explaining your decision. To support your explanation, be sure to include the similarities and differences between holiday traditions in Greece and Nigeria."

Closing:

After they finish their paragraphs, have students come together as a class. Tally students' answers as to where they would rather spend the holidays. Which country was more popular: Greece or Nigeria?

Have students work in small groups to discuss the following:

- Why do you think that most students chose (country) over (country)?
- If you had to go to the country that you did NOT choose, what valuable things do you think you might have the opportunity to experience? Why do you think that this country's holiday traditions are important to its people?

Extension:

For homework, have students research, write about, and compare/contrast holiday traditions in other countries of their choice.



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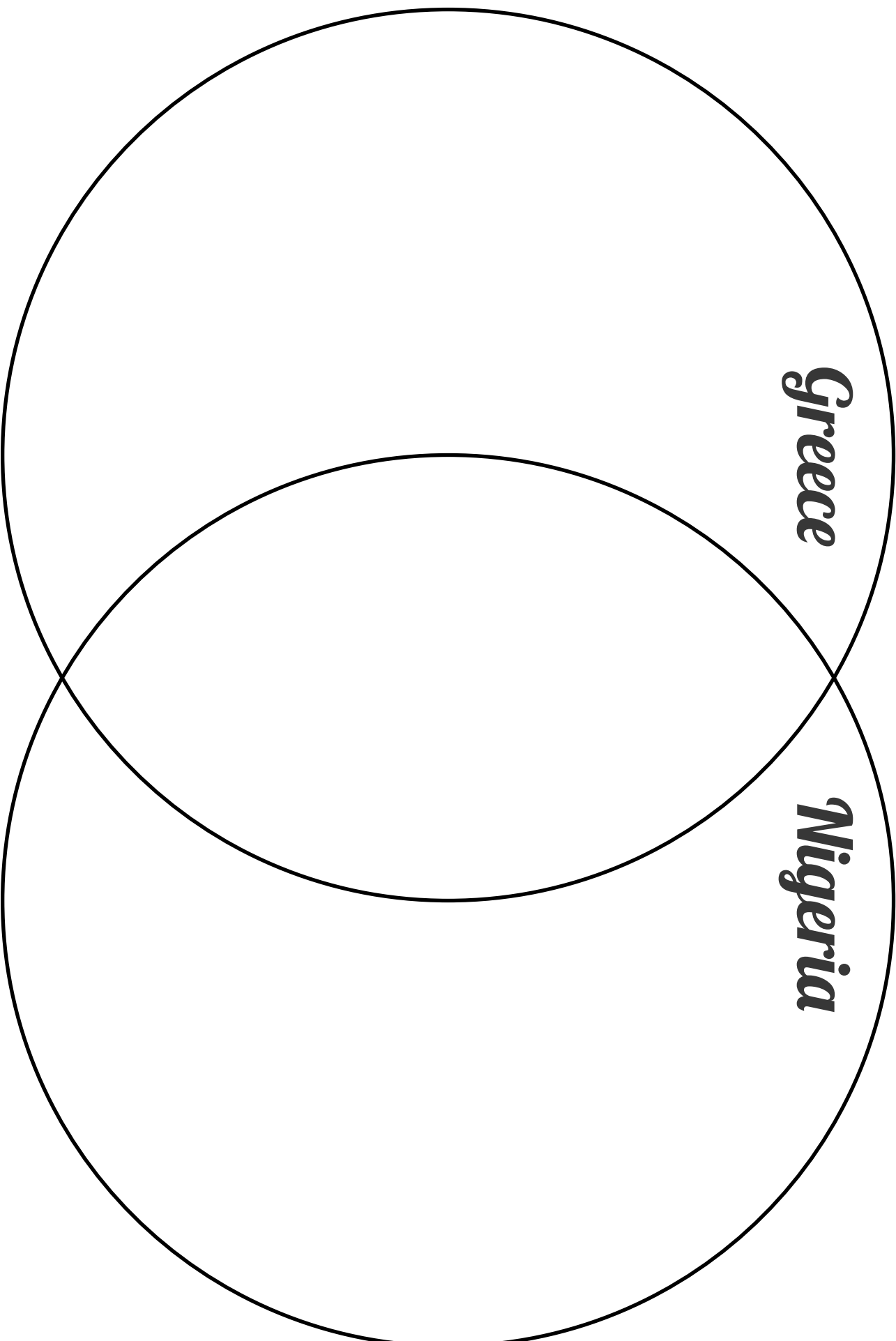
Name _____

Date _____



Greece

Nigeria



Name _____

Date _____



Christmas Around the World

Below are two students' accounts of how their families celebrate Christmas.

Read each account, underline important parts, and fill out the Venn diagram that follows to compare and contrast holiday traditions in Greece and Nigeria.

Alessia, Age 11, Greece

Kala Christougenna! That's how you say "Merry Christmas" in Greek. Today is Christmas Eve, and I am waiting anxiously for the Christmas cake to be ready. When my mother brings it in, it looks so beautiful with the cross in the middle! Tonight we are going out to sing Christmas carols and to see the big Christmas tree in the town square. Even though there is a lot of fun to be had during the holiday season, caroling with my sisters on Christmas Eve is definitely the highlight of it all. Tomorrow morning we will go to church and then enjoy a pork dinner. For dessert, my mother is making melomakaromo, an egg-shaped ball of flour, oil and honey.

It's almost as good as the Christmas cake!

There are presents under the tree, but I won't be able to open them until January 1, St. Basil's Day. I hope I can wait that long!

Jabari, Age 13, Nigeria

It is three days until Christmas, and it is almost time for my family to leave the city. I am so excited for our trip! We are returning to my father's village for the holiday. My mother is at the market buying a goat for our Christmas meal. When we arrive, it will be served in a delicious pepper soup along with my favorite food: Fufu, or pounded yam. In my country, we prefer to celebrate with hearty meats rather than with sweets.

When we arrive in my father's village, we will take time to settle in, and then the festivities will begin! My family is one of the more fortunate families in my country, so we like to celebrate Christmas by donating money to people who don't have as much as we do. In fact, my mother and father have taught me that the most important part of the holiday is giving to others. I love to hand out donations to friends and relatives who approach me. It brings me joy!



Where Are You Going for the Holidays?

Your family's holiday traditions may be different from those of your friends or neighbors. Well, just imagine going to a different country for the holidays! You would experience new and interesting holiday traditions that you have surely never encountered where you live.

Pretend that you are given a free trip to spend the holidays in another part of the world. With whom would you rather celebrate: Alessia or Jabari? Write a paragraph explaining your decision. To support your explanation, be sure to include the similarities and differences between holiday traditions in Greece and Nigeria.

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