

Christmas Connections around the Globe



Essential Questions

- GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS
- THE SEVEN CONTINENTS

Learning Intention / Overview

This fun activity will be a hit with students that need an engaging review of locations located around the globe. Students will be provided with locations that Santa Clause is traveling to. The official name of those Christmas celebrations will be provided to add cultural focus into the identification of these locations around the world. Students will work with team mates to identify the locations as they are drawn out of a basket. They will then have a limited amount of time to use their geography skills to pinpoint Santa’s location using the clues provided. For this activity, a world map will need to be displayed using a Smart board or a paper version of a world map will work too!

Methods / Teaching Strategies

- Review via cooperative learning

Assessment of Learning

- Class participation

How might you customize or alter this lesson?

Key Learning Areas

Map Skills

Concepts Taught

Geographic Locations

Continents

Target Age

9 – 12 Year Olds

Duration

1 x 60 minute Session

You will need:

World Map

Mini basketball goal, basketball



edgalaxy.com

Cool Stuff for Nerdy Teachers

Online Resources:

- <http://edgalaxy.com/education-quotes>
- <http://edgalaxy.com/classroom-posters-charts/2013/9/10/14-educational-quotes-posters>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPnYfwLOW84>

Teaching Instructions

1. Begin by asking students: “What are some of the different Christmas celebrations that occur around the world?”
2. Responses might include: Advent, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, St. Nichols Day, St. Stephen’s Day, and Feast of the Epiphany.
3. Show students a blank world map with none of the continents labelled, if accessible.
4. Ask students to come up and pinpoint the seven continents and the four major oceans of the world.
5. From there, explain that today, we are going to review various geographic locations found within those continents with some details from Santa’s travels.
6. Show students a world map that has the continents and countries for each continent labelled.
7. Provide each student a copy of the same map, if possible. If not, choose a comparable version to give students.
8. Divide students into two groups.
9. Explain to students that several locations have been placed inside a hat that detail Santa’s arrival.
10. Provide students with an example. “Christmas in South Africa is a public holiday celebrated on December 25th.”
11. Pinpoint South Africa on the map.
12. Explain that the team which correctly identifies the location will be allowed one opportunity to shoot one basketball.
13. One point will be awarded for the team that first locates the country.
14. An additional one point will be awarded to the team if the shooter scores a basket.

15. As one member from each team comes to the front of the room and takes their turn battling to find the correct location, other students should locate that place on their world map. They can write it in on their student copies.
16. Once the directions are clear, choose one person from each team. Have one person draw a location from the bag. From there give them an opportunity to locate the place identified. If they cannot find it within one minute, the other team may try.
17. Before sitting down, the first member from the second team should draw a location from the hat. They will have one minute to locate the place listed. If they cannot find it within one minute, the other team may try.
18. When a team finds the location within their one minute time frame, they are allowed to shoot one basket.
19. Repeat the process until all locations have been found, time expires, or all team members have had a turn.
20. The team with the most points wins. Consider giving them five bonus points on their next social studies test.
21. As a follow up activity, students could be assigned to research additional information about the country's Christmas traditions. This would be the same game that they drew from the hat and tried to locate on the world map.



Christmas Connections around the Globe cutouts

Note: The following locations/facts may be cut apart and used as part of the game.



In Nigeria, towns and cities are emptied in celebration of Christmas Day.	Christmas is a state holiday in India.
Christmas populations are popular with many living in Pakistan, since Christianity is the second largest religious minority group in this country.	In China, December 25 is not a legal holiday, but it is still celebrated unofficially.
In Hong Kong, retail owners love Christmas, which is a public holiday.	Many in Japanese celebrate Christmas, but not in a religious way.
Christmas is one of the biggest holidays of the year in the Philippines.	Singapore's Christmas celebrations prompts many stores and businesses to offer discounts, promotions, and sales.
In Lebanon, Santa Clause is known as <i>Papa Noel</i> .	One of the biggest shopping days in the United States is Black Friday, when many people prepare for Christmas.
Canada's Christmas traditions are very similar to those found in the United States.	Children in El Salvador celebrate Christmas with volcanoes, sparklers, and firecrackers.
In Colombia, Christmas presents are brought by <i>El Nino Jesus</i> .	In Guatemala, people dress up in ornamental hats called <i>Puritina</i> and dance in a line.
In Egypt, everyone goes to church on Christmas Eve wearing an entirely new outfit.	Saint Nicholas delivers gifts to Holland's children in November.
<i>La Posada</i> is the Christmas celebration in Mexico.	The Feast of St. Nicholas is celebrated in Switzerland.

La Befana, the good witch, visits children in Sicily.	In Brazil, Santa Clause is known as Papa Noel.
New Zealand celebrates Christmas by decorating with a Father Christmas theme.	Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, is the reason for December 25th's national holiday in Pakistan.
Christmas in Bulgaria consists of a large meal that contains at least 12 dishes.	St. Nicholas, the patron saint of sailors, is a key focus during Christmas in Greece.
Christian homes in Iraq read the Christmas story from Arabic Bible on Christmas Eve.	Bees wax is often poured onto water in Polish homes; here fortunes are foretold for citizens living in Poland.
Pesebre, little childlike figures made from clay, are placed under Christmas trees in Chile.	Cleaning, cooking, and baking are common activities in preparation for Christmas in Finland.
Firecrackers explode and bells ring in Venezuela to call sleepers from their beds early in the morning on Christmas Eve.	Ganna is the title of Christmas in Ethiopia.

Last night there was a lot of snow laying on the ground, but it all melted with the rain; the temperatures were just too warm.