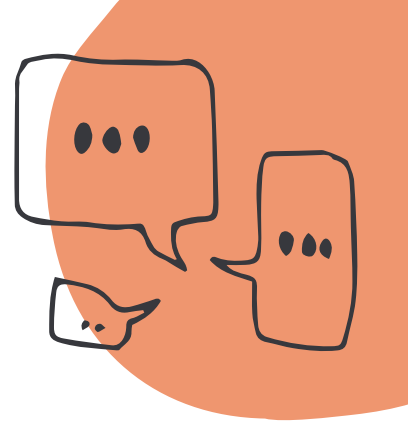


UNIT PLAN BRAINSTORM



Holiday Express (Social Studies, History)

New York City is home to over 8.3 million unique individuals with countless ethnic and cultural identities, which all come with their own traditions! Explore all of the holidays celebrated in the wintertime with your class. Each week, “travel” to a new place in the world and learn about a wintertime holiday or celebration that occurs there! Ask your students if they celebrate this holiday or know anything about it. Then, show your students where on the map the custom originates and pictures of rituals, food and clothing associated with it. After you’ve journeyed around the globe to learn about different holidays, it’s time to turn your attention to the traditions celebrated in your own classroom. Throw a mini holiday party in your classroom where everyone shares a food or tradition that they like to celebrate together as their own community. If they can’t think of one, they can always bring in something that they learned over the course of the unit. That’s the holiday spirit!

To support this unit, use the [Sleigh All Day Creativity Page](#) in the Discover and Create section.

The Gift of Giving (Social Studies, Visual Art)

The holiday season is all about spreading joy, and what better way to do that than through presents! As a class, unwrap the joy of gift giving in order to make a special gift all together. To start, host a show-and-tell in your classroom where every student brings in a toy or gift that brings them joy. While they present, invite each student to share a special memory they have with their toy or gift and embody how it made them feel to receive it with a physical gesture. Once everyone has shared, reflect on the experience with questions like: *How does receiving a gift make us feel?* and *What makes a gift special?* Afterwards, brainstorm a gift that you can all make together for someone in your community—maybe this is a fellow teacher, a parent volunteer or a crossing guard at your school. Whoever it is, think about something that will be uniquely wonderful to that person. Then, get to crafting! Some ideas for a gift could be a class drawing, a personalized video or a handwritten card. Present it altogether as a class and surprise that person with the love from your classroom!

To support this unit, use the [Let’s Make Some JOYs! Activity](#) in the Discover and Create section.

Face the Fact...ory (Science, Social Studies, Design)

From a wintery snow globe to the pencil at your desk, everything has to be created! Take a deep dive into how things get made and the inner workings of a factory with your students! To start, agree on a specific object in the classroom that you want to know more about, like a box of pencils or a stuffed animal. Then, as a class, research to find a video or article that shows the factory where it gets created (use [this Youtube video which shows how crayons are made](#) as inspiration). Taking note of the mechanics, science and design of the factory in the video, ask students to create their own “factory” in the classroom! First, decide what product your factory wants to design, and then use blocks, butcher paper, pipe cleaners or other open-ended materials to create it. You can even work with your students to set up different stations in your room to mimic a real factory. As a class, use your imagination and creativity to produce something special, working together like inventors. Now your gears are turning!

To support this unit, use the [A Toy-tastic Design Challenge Creativity Page](#) in the Respond and Connect section.