

SOUNDING LIGHT

SOUNDING LIGHT : ACTIVITIES FOR WELCOMING THE WINTER SEASON

Introduction

With the coming of winter solstice, we welcome in a new seasons that are filled with many magical moments. Some of Which, come in the form of stars...

With shorter days and longer nights, the stars have a longer time to shine!

NOTE TO EDUCATOR:

Hello! I hope my message finds you well.

The 'Sounding Light' Activities gives students an opportunity to engage in activities that celebrate the season no matter what cultural and religious holidays they celebrate. They will engage in activities that highlight the beauty of the night sky, and learn about the practice of gift-giving.

This two part activity is 60-90 minutes in length, students will grow in their awareness of elements of design and express initial reactions and personal responses to music.

OVERVIEW:

Grades: 3-6

Learning Goals: Expressing thoughts, feelings, messages, and ideas through the arts.

Curriculum Links: Creating and Presenting: apply the creative process to produce art works in a variety of traditional two- and three-dimensional forms, as well as multimedia art works, that communicate feelings, ideas,

ACTIVITY 1: DRAWING YOUR WINTER NIGHT SKY

Materials Needed: utensils to draw and write with and worksheet provided (see third page) or a separate white piece of paper

Part One: Listen to the piece of music Sounding Light available on the website resource page [HERE: https://www.kathrynpatricia.com/sounding-light-holiday-activities](https://www.kathrynpatricia.com/sounding-light-holiday-activities)

Part Two: While listening, have students choose their favourite thing to draw with, draw a picture of your Dream night sky. This drawing can be done on the next page of this packet, or on a separate piece of paper.

Reflection Question: During this activity, talk about with the class, "how many stars they you include in your drawing? "

Extended: (Grades 5-6): What constellations do we see during winter solstice? Have students research constellations we see during the winter months--feel free to have them include them in their drawing (there is a link to help students on their journey provided on the next page.

You can find more resources around winter constellations [HERE: http://www.science-teachers.com/constellations.htm](http://www.science-teachers.com/constellations.htm)

ACTIVITY 2: GIFT-MAKING ACTIVITY

Materials Needed: Utensils to draw and write with along with materials associated with students gift making-projects (see steps below)

Part One: Share notes on the practice of gift-giving with the class (see page three)

Part Two: Think Pair Share--have the students get into groups of 3 or 4 (or as a class) to talk about things that they have made or created that they liked or are most proud of. Examples could be: a drawing, creating a game, a craft, food etc.

Part Three: In groups of 3 or 4 (or as a class) talk about how the examples above could be turned into a gift

Part Four: Invite students to choose an activity/talent that they enjoy

Part Five: Have students choose a family member or friend to make your gift for

Part Six: Start creating! This can either be an in class activity (depending on the gift being made) or a take-home activity

Extended: Have students review the vocabulary list on page three. Do you have students in your class that celebrate some of the holiday celebrations listed? If so, hold space for students to share fond memories about their family traditions (if they are willing)

SOUNDING LIGHT

SOUNDING LIGHT : ACTIVITIES FOR WELCOMING THE WINTER SEASON

RESPONDING TO MUSIC:

As you listen to the piece of music, Sounding Light, What words or images come to mind?

How many stars will you include in your starry night scene?

DRAW YOUR STARRY SCENE IN THE SPACE BELOW (OR ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER):

DID YOU KNOW??:

We can see different Constellations in the winter months compared to the summer months?

What constellations do we see? Feel free to include them in the drawing

[Learn more about winter constellations here:](https://www.astronomy.cafe/astronomy-for-kids-the-constellations-of-winter/)

<https://www.astronomy.cafe/astronomy-for-kids-the-constellations-of-winter/>

SOUNDING LIGHT

SOUNDING LIGHT : ACTIVITIES FOR WELCOMING THE WINTER SEASON

THE PRACTICE OF GIFT-GIVING

Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, or Kwanza the practice of gift giving is widely celebrated.

Giving gifts can be fun, but also hard. How do you pick the right one? Then there is the issue of cost. How much do you spend? So many things to consider...

The History of Gift-Giving:

The practice of gift-giving dates back thousands of years and is one of the oldest human activities.

For centuries, gift-giving has taken on many forms.

The word **Gift** has **Scandinavian roots**, meaning, "something given," "a talent," or "a special ability,".

Often gifts that we make ourselves can be some of the most meaningful.

VOCABULARY:

Constellation: Groupings of stars that were imagined to form objects or creatures in the sky

Hanukkah (Ḥanukka, Chanukah, or Chanukkah): Also known as the Festival of Lights is an eight-day Jewish holiday that is usually celebrated in December

Christmas: A Christian holiday that is celebrated on December 25 in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ or the period of time that comes before and after this holiday

Kwanza (Kwanzaa): An annual holiday affirming African family and social values that is celebrated primarily in the United States from December 26 to January 1. The concept of Kwanzaa draws on Southern African first-fruits celebrations.

Scandinavia/Scandinavian: Scandinavia, historically Scandia, part of northern Europe, generally held to consist of the two countries, Norway and Sweden, with the addition of Denmark.

REFERENCES:

Webster Dictionary: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/usage-of-gift-vs-present>

Curious History, The Origins and History of Gift Giving: <https://www.curioushistory.com/the-origins-and-history-of-gift-giving/>

GIFT-MAKING ACTIVITY:

Think, Pair, Share

Choose an activity/talent that you and enjoy

How Could you turn this talent into a gift? Write your responses below and discuss in small groups or as a class (follow your teachers instruction on this):

Choose a family member or friend to make your gift for
Start Creating!

SOUNDING LIGHT

SOUNDING LIGHT : ACTIVITIES FOR WELCOMING THE WINTER SEASON

ABOUT KATHRYN PATRICIA COBBLER:

Kathryn Patricia Cobbler is an artist in Canada's Capital region.

As a Loop pedal violist, composer, and educator, her work centres around multidisciplinary collaborations that both hold space for and tell the life stories of audiences and communities.

If you enjoyed this resource, check more of Kathryn Patricia's interactive concerts [HERE](#):

<https://www.masconline.ca/artist/kathryn-patricia-cobbler/>



www.kathrynpatricia.com



[@kathrynpatriciaviolist](https://www.instagram.com/kathrynpatriciaviolist)



[Kathryn Patricia Cobbler](https://www.youtube.com/Kathryn Patricia Cobbler)



[@kpviolist](https://www.facebook.com/kpviolist)