
ETHIC/PHILOSOPHY: FEASTS OF JOY

Grade Level/Age 8-9 /14-15y



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Ethic/Philosophy Education: Feasts of Joy

Competences/Learning Outcomes

- To recognize the origin of the festivals.
- To understand and interpret festival of joy in its own particular way.
- To identify and analyze different customs related to the feast and explain their meaning.
- To describe rituals of the festivals.
- To be able to share traditions and origins of a particular feast with people from different culture.

Grade Level/Age

8-9 /14-15y

Duration

90 min



Preparation

- Acquire a box filled with materials related to the feast and bring it to class; pictures, magazines, flyers etc.
- Bring materials for designing a poster; papers, scissors, glue etc.

Step-by-step description

- Inform students about the task to introduce a feast from their own religion/worldview at the Encounter Day.
- Arrange students to sit in a circle.
- Read the text (M1) about the selected feast and ask students to share their personal experiences on this feast.
- Explain that with this lesson they will explore the different aspects on the feast and write down the categories *music, food, customs, facts about the feast* on the blackboard.
- Divide the participants into 4 groups of 4-5 students to research and work together about the category that they will choose.
- Ask each group to choose one of the categories as group.
- Distribute the info&task cards (M2) and checklist (M3) to each group.
- Ask students to work on their task in the card by using the materials. Provide sources (such as books, glossaries, online sources etc.) for the students to search for information, pictures, songs, etc.
- Ask students to illustrate the poster with suitable pictures. (M4)
- Remind each group to use the checklist to help them with the presentation of their results.
- Ask students to hang up their posters and make a presentation about their results.
- Remind students that they are welcome to use all the text, information, and songs for their presentation during the Encounter Day.

Tips for teachers

- This lesson structure can be used for other religious festivals. So feel free to convert this lesson plan to any other content.
- If the „Feast of Joy“ topic will be designed as lesson series it would be useful to have a calendar (M5) for the classroom that allow students to work on holidays. Feel free to update this calendar by adding other holidays or festivals.
- The texts in the lesson plan aims to work as a starting point for students to think about the subject. They also work as a base for students' presentation for Encounter Day.





Learning in Encounter for Common Values in Diversity

- Remember to guide students throughout the process.
- Please note that some customs, songs and explanations represent German way of celebration. If you are from other Christian traditions feel free to add your own songs, customs etc.



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Materials

[M1] General Info Text

General Info Text about New Year

The origins of New Year celebrations vary across cultures and periods. People have celebrated the beginning of a new year for various reasons such as the sun's rotation, agricultural cycles, natural events, or religious beliefs. In ancient Rome, according to the Julian calendar, the month of March marked the beginning of the new year. During this time, the Roman Empire held a festival called "Saturnalia." During Saturnalia, people temporarily abandoned traditional social norms, exchanged gifts, and enjoyed festivities. In the Middle Ages, Christmas on December 25 was significant in Christian Europe, but in some places, New Year was also celebrated on January 1. Celebrations during this period typically involved feasting, drinking, and entertainment. The modern form of New Year celebrations became more widespread with the adoption of the Gregorian calendar and the general acceptance of January 1 as the beginning of the new year. In the mid-16th century, Pope Gregory XIII introduced the Gregorian calendar, where January 1 was established as the start of the new year. New Year celebrations in different cultures involve various traditions and rituals.

[M2] Infotexts about facts, customs, food, and music with recipes and songs

How do people celebrate the New Year?

- *Read the info text and underline the most important information.*
- *Use this information and any other information from books, glossaries and online sources.*
- *Design your poster.*

In the present day, New Year celebrations have various traditions, rituals, and forms of celebration worldwide. Here are some common examples:

Family Unity and Gatherings: In many cultures, spending the New Year within the family unit is important. Family members come together, cook special meals, engage in conversations, and create an opportunity to remember the past year and plan for the future.

Public Celebrations: In many cities and regions, public events are organized to welcome the New Year. These events often include fireworks displays, concerts, street parties, and other celebration activities.

Fireworks Displays: In many countries, fireworks displays on New Year's Eve have become a significant tradition. Colored lights, bursting sounds, and spectacular images created in the sky mark the entrance into the new year.



New Year's Eve Parties: Many people prefer to celebrate the New Year by attending parties with friends or communities. These parties are often held in special venues or homes and are filled with music, dance, special meals, and fun activities.

New Year Celebrations on TV: Many individuals, especially those unable to attend large fireworks displays, celebrate the New Year by watching television programs. New Year's Eve specials, concerts, and exclusive broadcasts allow people to welcome the new year from the comfort of their homes or in group watching events.

New Year's Resolutions: New Year is also considered a time for people to make new beginnings and set goals. Many individuals set "New Year's resolutions," outlining their objectives and hoping that the new year will bring positive changes for them.

While these celebration forms and traditions vary worldwide, the New Year is generally welcomed with feelings of hope, enthusiasm, and optimism for the future.

Food at the New Year Celebration

- *Read the info text and underline the most important information.*
- *Use this information and visuals for your poster design. Create a recipe book using the recipes.*

New Year's dishes vary significantly based on culture and region. However, in many cultures, New Year's dishes hold a special and meaningful place. Here are some New Year's dishes commonly consumed in different cultures:

In Germany, the New Year's meal often consists of grilled pork and sauerkraut. This traditional dish symbolizes abundance and prosperity. In the Southern United States, Hoppin' John is a dish commonly consumed on the first day of the new year. It includes black-eyed peas, rice, and often pork. Traditionally, this dish is believed to bring luck and prosperity. In Japan, an important New Year's meal is Osechi-Ryori, a traditional set of colorful dishes adorned with symbols. Each dish in this set holds a special meaning. In Italy, a traditional New Year's dish is often lenticchie di capodanno, a lentil soup. Lentils, resembling coins, symbolize wealth and abundance. In Ukraine and Poland, a special dish consumed on the first day of the new year is Kutia, which includes wheat, honey, and dried fruits. This dish symbolizes prosperity and health. Another commonly consumed dish in Italy on New Year's Day is Cotechino con Lenticchie. This dish includes a type of pork sausage and lentils. In Russia, a staple on New Year's tables is Olivier Salad. This salad typically contains diced potatoes, carrots, peas, pickles, mayonnaise, and often diced ham or bologna.

Each culture's New Year's dishes come with their unique characteristics and symbols. Generally, these dishes are believed to bring wealth, prosperity, luck, and health.



Music at New Year Celebration

- *Read the info text and underline the most important information.*
- *Use this information and visuals for your poster design. Create song booklet with the help of the song lyrics.*

Music played during New Year celebrations generally focuses on lively, joyful, and hopeful melodies. While musical preferences vary based on personal tastes and cultures, there are certain songs and music genres that are commonly considered fitting for the New Year atmosphere. Here are examples of frequently heard music during New Year celebrations:

One of the most iconic songs symbolizing the arrival of the New Year is "Auld Lang Syne." This Scottish folk song is played at midnight on New Year's Eve and is often accompanied by people embracing and reminiscing about old memories.

Many Christmas songs are also commonly heard during New Year celebrations. For example, songs like "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," and "Winter Wonderland" can capture the festive spirit of the New Year.

Energetic and fun pop songs are often preferred at New Year's parties and celebrations. Popular tracks like Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" are frequently played during this time.

Some individuals prefer classical music during New Year celebrations. Pieces such as Johann Strauss II's "Blue Danube" waltz or Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" can create a festive atmosphere.

Dance music is highly popular at New Year's parties. Popular dance songs with lively rhythms bring people together in a joyful atmosphere.

In different cultures, New Year music often consists of traditional songs from that region. This may include music with local rhythms, instruments, and traditional melodies.

These music examples are commonly chosen to enhance the celebratory and enjoyable atmosphere of New Year's festivities. People select a variety of music based on their cultural backgrounds and personal preferences to share in the excitement of the New Year.

Link to the songs:

Auld Lang Syne

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_6Vs8pADrQ



Jingle Bells

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7s2VjwQSMw>

All I Want for Christmas Is You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAkMkVFWAoo>

The Nutcracker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zV1qLYukTH8>

Blue Danube





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDaJ7rFg66A>

Yeni Yıl Şarkısı

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtvKGOUySkE>



[M3] Checklist

| Checklist Music | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | What is the significance of music? |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | What are the songs? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | When to sing these songs? | |
| Checklist Facts | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | When will the feast be celebrated? |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | How long will the feast be celebrated? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | What does the name of the feast mean? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Why is the feast celebrated? | |
| Checklist Food | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | What is eaten at the feast? |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Why is this food eaten? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | How is the food prepared? | |
| Checklist Traditions | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | What are the traditions? |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Why do these traditions exist? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | How does the feast day work? | |



[M4] Image Materials

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



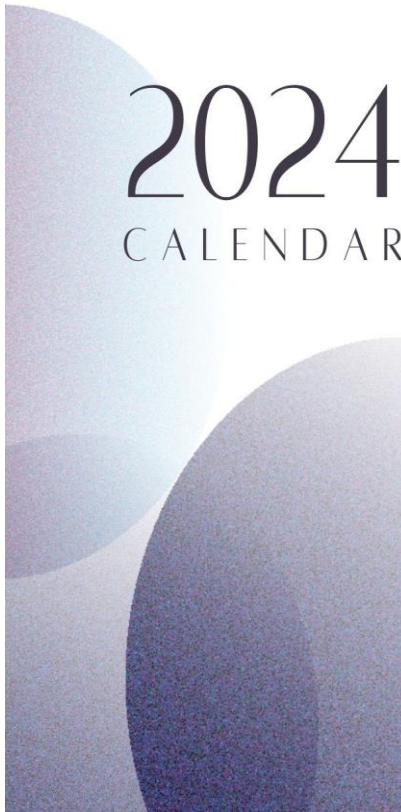
9



10



[M5] New Year Calendar



JANUARY

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

FEBRUARY

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | |

MARCH

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
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| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

APRIL

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

MAY

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

JUNE

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

JULY

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

AUGUST

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

SEPTEMBER

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

OCTOBER

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

NOVEMBER

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

DECEMBER

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |



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