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Auszug aus:

"Let's celebrate!": US American holidays and traditions

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V287

Unterrichtsmagazin

"Let's celebrate!": U.S. American holidays and traditions – Eine landeskundliche Materialsammlung (Teil 1)

Annie Caballé



Américanische Feiern und Traditionen sind Teil in der Kulturgeschichte des Landes. Verschiedene Feiertage, Paraden, traditionelle Handicraften und die multikulturelle Vielfalt sind nur wenige Aspekte, die amerikanische Feiern besonders machen. Sie müssen Teil der insgesamt abwechslungsreichen und sehr unterschiedlichen Feiern sein, die in den USA gefeiert werden. Feiern sind ein wichtiger Teil der amerikanischen Kultur und tragen zur Identifizierung und zum Zusammenhalt der Bevölkerung bei. Diese Materialien sind für die Förderung der kulturellen Bildung und der Interkulturalität in der Schule geeignet.

INFORMATIONEN:

Klassenstufe/Compass: 8-10, Lernplan 8-10
Dauer: 1-4 Unterrichtsstunden (Materialien einzeln einsetzbar)
Angewandte Kompetenzen: 1. Interkulturelle Kompetenz: Informationen zu den kulturellen Feiern (historische und kulturelle Hintergründe) sammeln, verstehen und in Texten und Bildern darstellen.
2. Sprachkompetenz: Informationen aus Informationsquellen entnehmen und in Texten und Bildern darstellen.
Thematische Bereiche: USA, Feiern, Feiertage, Traditionen, multikulturelle Vielfalt.
Medien: Videos.

Auf einen Blick

Baustein 1

Thema: Origins and traditions of Halloween – Exploring the spooky celebration

M 1 **Trick or treat! – Celebrating Halloween** / mittels Bildbeschreibung, Informationstext und Internetrecherche die Ursprünge und Traditionen des Halloweenfests kennenlernen (EA, PA, GA, PL)

Benötigt:

- Internetfähige Endgeräte für Recherche in Gruppen



Baustein 2

Thema: *Día de los Muertos* in the USA – Understanding the Day of the Dead

M 2 **Celebrating the dead – *Día de los Muertos* in the USA** / mittels Bildbeschreibung und Informationstext das Fest charakterisieren und einen Text über den Einfluss der *Chicano* identity schreiben (EA, PL)

Benötigt:

- Internetfähige Endgeräte zum Abspielen des Filmtrailers „Coco“



Baustein 3

Thema: Getting to know the historical and present connection between Thanksgiving and the National Day of Mourning

M 3 **Happy Thanksgiving! – Celebrating a national, religious holiday** / anhand des Text- und Bildmaterials, einer Wortschatzarbeit sowie einer Gruppenarbeit zu traditionellen Rezepten den Feiertag erschließen und über Dankbarkeit im eigenen Leben schreiben (EA, GA, PL)

M 4 **Unthanksgiving Day – The National Day of Mourning** / anhand eines Informationstextes und einer Gruppendiskussion die Perspektive amerikanischer Ureinwohner auf *Thanksgiving* reflektieren (EA, GA, PL)

Benötigt:

- Internetfähige Endgeräte für Recherche in Gruppen



Baustein 4

Thema: Talking and writing about personal Christmas experiences and popular Christmas culture

M 5 **Merry Christmas – What Christmas traditions are familiar to you?** / eine Mindmap zu bekannten Weihnachtsbräuchen erstellen und sich zu zweit darüber austauschen (EA, PA, PL)

Trick or treat! – Celebrating Halloween

M 1



© Szabo, Jonas/Unsplash; Picture



© Imgorthand/E+

Tasks

- Describe the pictures. What Halloween traditions do you know?
If you need help, check out the boxes at the bottom.
- Read the text about the origins and traditions of Halloween. Work with a partner. Use the text to answer the questions. If you can't find certain pieces of information in the text, note down your suggestions.
 - What are common tricks people do if they don't get a treat?
 - What are popular Halloween costumes?
 - Why do many people watch horror films on Halloween? What is the essence of horror films? Name typical themes and cinematic elements.
 - Where does the name Halloween originally come from?
 - What are pumpkins for Halloween called and why are pumpkins popular for this festivity?
- Halloween is considered by many to be one of the most dangerous nights in the United States. Why could this be so? Work in small groups and discuss this issue. Consider various factors. You can also search online for newspaper articles and other information on possible dangers.

TIP: Talking about a picture

- | | |
|--|--|
| • In the top left/right corner, I can see ... | • What strikes me most is ... |
| • In the bottom left/right corner there is ... | • This picture makes me think of ... |
| • The person is standing/lying/looking at/ pointing at ... | • I guess ... |
| • The colours are bright/dark/vivid ... | • I ask myself how/why/what ... |
| • It could/might/may be a ... | • The picture/colour/style makes me feel ... |

TIP: Vocabulary help

pumpkin: der Kürbis – **(to) carve:** schnitzen – **witch:** die Hexe – **sabre:** der Säbel – **skeleton:** das Skelett – **(to) dress up:** sich verkleiden



Unthanking Day – The National Day of Mourning

M 4

Task

Read the text about Unthanking Day or National Day of Mourning. Work in small groups. Discuss pros and cons of Thanksgiving. Include the Native Americans' perspective on it. Collect your arguments in a table and present it to the class.



Unthanking Day / National Day of Mourning

Unthanking Day, also known as the National Day of Mourning, is observed by many Native Americans and their allies on the same day as Thanksgiving. It rejects the traditional Thanksgiving story and demonstrates the historical trauma and ongoing struggles faced by Native American communities.

- 5 The origins of the National Day of Mourning date back to 1970, when Wamsutta Frank James, a member of the *Wampanoag* tribe, was invited to speak at a Plymouth banquet celebrating the 350th anniversary of the Pilgrims' landing. His speech, which expressed the pain and suffering of Native Americans since the arrival of European settlers, was deemed too controversial and was censored.
- 10 In response, James and others gathered in Plymouth, Massachusetts, to honour their ancestors and fight for Native American rights. This gathering marked the first National Day of Mourning.

Today, the National Day of Mourning is an annual event held on Cole's Hill overlooking Plymouth Rock. The day includes speeches, prayers, and moments

15 of silence to honour those who have passed. It is a time for Native Americans to express their grief, resilience, and hope for the future.

Unthanking Day is also observed on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay, where people come together to remember the occupation of Alcatraz by Native American activists from 1969 to 1971, an important moment in the Native

20 American civil rights movement. This event includes traditional ceremonies, music, and dance.

Text by author

TIP: Useful phrases for discussions

Giving your opinion

- In my opinion/view ...
- I think/believe/feel that ...
- If you ask me ...
- Personally, I ...
- I'm absolutely convinced that ...

Agreeing

- I totally agree with ...
- I agree entirely / with some of the things you said.
- You are absolutely right.
- That's exactly what I mean.

Disagreeing

- I'm not sure whether you can really ...
- I disagree (entirely) with/that ...
- I'm not convinced that ...
- I see your point, but ...
- I have got my doubts about that.



Happy New Year! – New Year's Eve and the Ball Drop

M 8



© Gilnature/iStock/Getty Images Plus

New Year's Eve at the Time Square and the Ball Drop

The New Year's Eve party on Times Square is one of the most famous New Year's Eve parties in the world. At the centre of New York City, every year hundreds of thousands of people gather around and watch how the ball drops.



Background knowledge: Did you know that ...

- the first celebration of New Year's Eve in Times Square took place in 1904?
- the nearly six-ton-ball is covered with 2,688 crystal triangles and possesses a palette of more than 16 million vibrant colours?
- you can add your wish to the Wishing Wall; the wish is then printed and added to confetti which is released at midnight?

Tasks

1. Think–Pair–Share: How do you celebrate New Year's Eve?
2. Look at the video of the New Year's Eve party and note elements of the celebration: <https://raabe.click/NYnewyearseve2024> [last accessed: 12/09/2024]
3. New Year's is a very important event for many people around the world. Look at the following discussion questions. Work in small groups and discuss the topics. Collect your arguments in a table and present it to the class.
 - a) Should fireworks be forbidden for various reasons? Consider e.g., environmental consequences; danger for birds, pets at home and other animals; reckless behaviour with fireworks; burden for people who suffer from trauma
 - b) What do you think of New Year's Resolutions? Helpful or unnecessary?



TIP: Useful phrases for discussions

Giving your opinion

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| • I'm not sure whether you can really ... | • I see your point, but ... |
| • I disagree (entirely) with/that ... | • I have got my doubts about that. |
| • I'm not convinced that ... | |



Hinweise (M 3–M 4)

Ziel ist, dass die Lernenden die Hintergründe sowohl des *Thanksgiving*-Fests als auch des *Unthanksgiving Day* anhand von Informationstexten erschließen und sich in Gruppenarbeit mit typischen Rezepten beschäftigen.

Erwartungshorizont (M 3)

1. Individual results, e.g.: In the picture, one can see a table with lots of food, one candle, dishes, pumpkins and yellow/orange flowers. In the centre there is a large roast turkey, which is usually seasoned and stuffed. Additionally, there is a pumpkin pie in the bottom left corner. On the left there are green beans and behind the turkey there is some gravy. On the right, one can see a crystal glass, which might contain white wine or cider. What strikes me most are the orange and yellow colours, which fit to the season of autumn.
2. Individual results, e.g.:

a) Pilgrims	Generally: a group of people who travels to a sacred place for religious reasons. Here: a group of English settlers seeking religious freedom, who travelled on the Mayflower to the "New World"
b) Mayflower	an English sailing ship that transported a group of English families, known today as the Pilgrims, from England to the New World in 1620
c) harvest	the process or season of gathering crops
d) feast	a large meal with plenty of food and drinks, usually when there is a celebration
e) parade	a public procession with marching groups of people, musicians, and floats (Motivwagen), especially on a special day or event
f) blessing	God's favour and protection; a prayer said before or after a meal
g) gratitude	the act of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness

3. Individual results.
4. Individual results. Example: There are many things I'm grateful for in my life. My family is at the top of the list. They support me in everything I do, whether it's school, sports or other activities. Their encouragement helps me stay motivated and focused. Additionally, my friends are also very important to me. They make school fun and are always there when I need someone to talk to or hang out with. We share a lot of good times together, and their friendship means a lot to me. I'm thankful for my education. It might not always be exciting, but I know it's important for my future. Lastly, I'm grateful for my health. Being able to play sports, go on adventures, and just live my life without major problems is something I don't take for granted.
Overall, my family, friends, education, and health are what I appreciate most in my life. They bring me happiness and help me grow as a person.
Author's text, adapted with ChatGPT

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