

Showing Our Gratitude With ThinkUp!

Holidays that honor gratitude and thanksgiving are celebrated throughout the world—not just in the United States. Who knew? This high-interest activity will allow your students to reflect on what they're thankful for as they build critical thinking skills! Students will use a jigsaw-learning approach to explore holidays of gratitude in cultures around the world.

Note: Preview literature and website suggestions for appropriate content to match your district guidelines.



Getting Started



Critical Thinking Trait Focus—Examine *I use a variety of methods to explore and to analyze.*

(Note: Other traits such as, inquire, reflect, collaborate, and communicate may be used to complete this activity.)

Learning Standards Focus—Understand similarities and differences among people, understand ethnic and/or cultural celebrations, interact with sources in meaningful ways, generate and clarify questions on a topic, and develop and follow a research plan.

Vocabulary—gratitude, tradition, culture, generosity, thankful, festival

Activity Preparations:

1. Group students for learning. Consider using a learning-styles or multiple-intelligences inventory to group students. Or group students of diverse cultural backgrounds according to their reading levels. There should be approximately 3–4 students per group, depending on class size.
2. Assign each group a country/holiday to research. To simplify this activity, students can use our [Symbaloo Webmix](#) to locate online research sites.
 - a. Israel: Sukkot
 - b. Korea: Chuseok
 - c. Ghana: Homowo Festival
 - d. Germany: Erntedankfest
 - e. China: August Moon Festival (Mid-Autumn Festival)
 - f. India: Pongal
3. Provide students with devices for Internet research. Adding a shortcut to the [Symbaloo Webmix](#) on device desktops will help young learners.

Activity Directions:

1. Review the **Examine** critical thinking trait definition with students. Explain that they will be using this trait to learn more about gratitude and how it is celebrated in different parts of the world.
2. Choose a short title or excerpt to read aloud from the suggested literature lists or a title of your choice that includes the theme of gratitude.

3. Prompt students with thought-provoking questions in response to the literature. Examples include:
 - What might result when you show gratitude?
 - In what ways could someone show gratitude beyond saying ‘Thanks’?
 - What choice would you have made (refer to literature)?
 - How could the ways we say ‘thank you’ to others be improved?
4. Invite students to use various note-taking methods, including structural organization tools, digital notes, or paper/pencil, as they **Examine** their holiday of gratitude.
5. Allow students to share their findings. When groups have had ample time to **Examine** their country’s holiday, regroup students into 3–4 different groups with at least one ‘expert’ representing each country.* Each expert will teach the others in the group for approximately 2–4 mins. Remind students to use established routines for speaking and listening in a group. (See Activity Adjustments)

Reflect

After students have used the **Examine** trait to learn more about gratitude around the world, facilitate a reflective discussion about their thinking and learning. Guide students as they focus on how the **Examine** critical thinking trait helped them work through the activity. Emphasize the importance of using a variety of methods to **Examine** new ideas. Ask students to consider their thoughts on Thanksgiving in America in relation to their new understanding of gratitude celebrations around the world.

***Activity Adjustments:** Adjust jigsaw experiences to meet the needs of your learners. It may be appropriate to invite each group to share their learning with the large group rather than using a second grouping method.

Elementary Literature Suggestions: *Andy and the Lion* by James Henry Daugherty, *Gratitude Soup* by Olivia Rosewood, *Thanks a Million* by Nikki Grimes, *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts

Secondary Literature Suggestions: *Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan, *Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate, *I Will Always Write Back* by Caitlin Alifirenka & Martin Ganda with Liz Welch, *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper



We love to see how students interact with our resources!

Take photos of your students’ work, share them on social media, and use the hashtags: **#MentoringMinds #CriticalThinking**. Find us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn **@mentoringminds**

Be sure to remember your social media tags! Each month, we will choose a post to win a prize!



Group Members _____

Country

Name of Holiday

Date of Holiday

Tradition & Facts: Take notes as you learn more about the holiday.

Group Questions: What questions did your group have as you were learning together?

Group Reflections: Reflect on your learning as a group and share your thoughts.