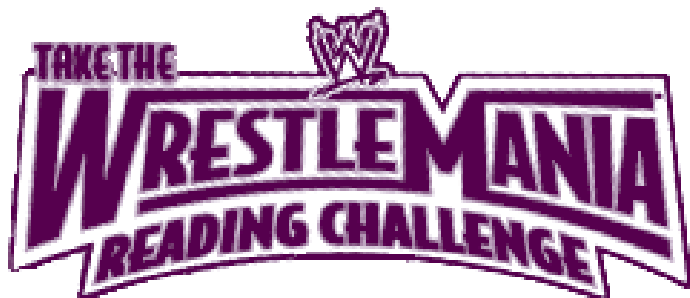


# Calling all teen artists!

Teens in grades 6 - 12 are encouraged to participate in the third annual teen art contest, known as TART. This year's theme, *The Skin I'm In*, means your art can represent any aspect of your life. Consider what inspires you, what you like to do, how your past has affected who you've become... let your work reflect you. And most importantly, have fun and be creative!

Your work, along with an entry form and a paragraph about why your art fits this year's theme, needs to be submitted on March 8 - 9 from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. at the Carnegie Reading Room in Penrose Library, the East Teen Center at East Library, or the Ruth Holley Branch Library. Accepted artists will have their work displayed at various PPLD facilities in April 2010, and several prizes will also be awarded. All jurying will be performed by PPLD's youth advisory councils. These volunteer groups advise the Library on how to best serve teens.

For an entry form and more information, visit [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) and click on the TART image in the homepage slide show.



Read 10 books between November 23 and January 11. Create a bookmark to promote reading and you could win a trip to WrestleMania in Phoenix! This program is being held at the East Library. Stop by the East Library children's desk or the East Teen Center to pick up a reading log and get started!

## Improv Club

Are you into drama? Like to tell jokes? Join other teens for improv games and fun. Learn how to think on your feet and become more confident in a crowd. The club meets at East Library. Contact [khoke@ppld.org](mailto:khoke@ppld.org).



## East Chess Club



Join others in playing chess! Every third Friday of the month, the East Chess Club will be meeting from 4 - 5 p.m. at the East Library. For more information, contact [khoke@ppld.org](mailto:khoke@ppld.org).

## Homeschool Hub

Want to get connected with local homeschool groups and learn about resources available here at PPLD? Log on to the Homeschool Hub resource website. View a database of local homeschool groups, sign-up for monthly email newsletters and booklists, and connect with other homeschool families all in one place. Just visit [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) and click on **Homeschool Hub**.

The Annual Betty Field Memorial Youth Writing Contest is open to all students (public schools, private schools, home-schooled) in grades 6 - 12 in the El Paso County region and/or in the Pikes Peak Library District. The deadline for receipt of entries is February 27, 2010. For more information and an entry form, visit [friendsppld.org](http://friendsppld.org) and click on **Writing Contest**.

## A Homeschool Resource Tool

# Holidays Around the World



Diwali Light

All across the globe, celebrations are happening that involve customs, traditions, and festivities marking time-honored events and special days. Several of these events are celebrated by many worldwide. You may find some happening right here in your hometown. Let's take a look at what different cultures, countries and religions celebrate!

Diwali, celebrated in October or November, is a Hindu festival held in honor of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. The celebration involves the lighting of lamps in homes and temples, and with prayers to Lakshmi.

If you find yourself in Mexico, Day of the Dead is a holiday celebrated there, as well as by Latin Americans living in the United States and Canada. The holiday focuses on family and friends gathering to pray for and remember family members who have died. The celebration occurs in connection with the Catholic holiday of All Saints' Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2). Traditions include visiting the graves with gifts of sugar skulls, marigolds, and the favorite foods of the departed. The origins of the modern holiday trace back to indigenous observances of the Aztec dating back thousands of years.



Menorah

The well-known celebration of Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights, and may occur from late November to late December. The festival is observed by the kindling of lights on a special candelabrum, the nine-branched Menorah or Hanukiah, one light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night.



Kwanzaa Celebration

Unlike holidays steeped in centuries-old traditions, Kwanzaa, the African-American year-end feast, was not established until 1966 by Maulana Karenga. The celebration, which occurs annually from December 26 to January 1, is based on a compilation of several harvest festivals and celebrations from around the African continent. Each day of the week-long festival is devoted to the celebration of one of the seven principle building blocks of self-awareness. During the holiday week most Kwanzaa celebrants use a menu of traditional African-American dishes, as well as foods from the "mother continent." The word "Kwanzaa" comes from the Swahili expression "matunda ya kwanza," meaning "first fruits of the harvest." The holiday today has become a rapidly growing

tradition with over 18 million people in all walks of life celebrating the week as a time of feasting, fasting, and self-examination.

For followers of Islam, Ramadan is the month of fasting, in which participating Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, and indulging in anything that is in excess or ill-natured, from dawn until sunset. The fasting is meant to teach the Muslim patience, modesty, and spirituality. During Ramadan, Muslims ask forgiveness for past sins, pray for guidance and help in refraining from everyday evils, and try to purify themselves through self-restraint and good deeds.

Continued on next page

To contact PPLD's Homeschool Committee, please email [gsohns@ppld.org](mailto:gsohns@ppld.org)



## Holidays Around the World (continued from cover)

Boxing Day is a public or a bank holiday celebrated in the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Hong Kong, and countries in the Commonwealth of Nations with a mainly Christian population. In South Africa this public holiday is now known as the Day of Goodwill. The name derives from the English tradition of giving gifts to less fortunate members of society. It later extended to service workers; traditionally laborers, servants, service staff, postal workers and trades people in the United Kingdom.

If you're of Scandinavian decent, then Saint Lucia's Day, a feast day dedicated to the Patron Saint Lucia (or Lucy), is observed on December 13. It retains traditional forms of celebration through southern Europe, including: Sweden, Denmark, Latvia, Estonia, Norway, Finland, Malta, Italy, Bosnia, Iceland and Croatia; and in areas of the United States, such as Minnesota, where there are Scandinavian roots. This holiday is also referred to as the Festival of Lights, with the lighting of a crown of candles and offerings of sweets.

Christmas Day is an annual holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. The day marks the beginning of a larger season, Christmastide which lasts 12 days. Though Christmas is observed on December 25, it is not known if this is the actual date of birth or chosen to correspond with either earlier Roman festivals or the winter solstice. Celebrated throughout the Christian population, it is also celebrated as a secular, cultural, gift-giving festival, associated with popular elements from Nordic traditions, such as the Christmas tree, mistletoe, holly, and the figure of Santa Claus.

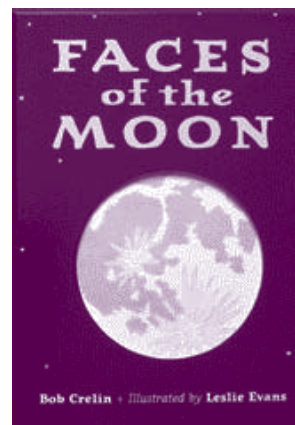
Saint Nicholas Day, honoring the Patron saint and Bishop Nicholas of Myra is still celebrated on December 6 by the Catholic and Orthodox Christians and various Anglican and Lutheran churches throughout parts of Greece, Belgium, Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Russia, Slovakia, and Serbia. His reputation for secret gift-giving, such as putting coins in the shoes of those who left them out for him, became the model for Santa Claus, whose English name comes from the Dutch "Sinterklaas".

New Year's Day, a world-wide celebration of the first day of the New Year is celebrated on January 1, as it was also in ancient Rome (though other dates were also used in Rome). It is a public holiday, offering reflection of the passing year, created resolutions for the upcoming year, and often celebrated with fireworks at the stroke of midnight as the new year starts. Some of the Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate the New Year on January 14 in correspondence to the Julian calendar.

Whatever you choose to celebrate, there are ancestral, historical, and spiritual meanings you can learn from.



**What's New at the Zoo? An Animal Adding Adventure** by Suzanne Slade  
Reading, math and science are all present in this book. Younger children can count the animals, older children can do the math equations and everyone can expand their science vocabulary. There is a web link on the book jacket for a 50 page PDF with more activities and ideas. (Ages 4 - 10) *math, science*



**Faces of the Moon**  
by Bob Crelin  
This science book reads just like a fun and interesting picture book. Solid information about the phases of the moon with delightful pictures and the extra information at the back of the book will give you plenty to talk about as the moon waxes and wanes in the coming months. (Ages 5 - 12) *science*

**Adventures of Riley: Safari in South Africa**  
by Amanda Lumry  
Take a field trip to South Africa! Simple illustrations and photos are combined in this series, and basic science information is also shared. One great feature is that the information source, a particular person for each fact, is credited, allowing adult readers to talk about careers that allow people to study animals. (Ages 4 - 10) *science, geography*

**Tricking the Tallyman** by Jacqueline Davies  
Travel back in time to the first census taken in America. It is 1790 and Thomas Jefferson has ordered his 650 assistants to ride from village to village and count every person. Some people were suspicious of census takers, and would hide. When it was understood that the census would allow representation in the government, these same people now wanted to be counted, and maybe those pigs dressed as babies would be counted, too! (Ages 5 - 12) *history, government*

**Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland** by Sally M. Walker  
Join forensic scientists as they uncover graves from colonial times. This 140 page book is full of photos of these human remains, and is fascinating reading. Several unique archaeological sites are visited, and the author discusses the surprises that forensic scientists found in the course of their work. (Ages 10 - adult) *history, forensic science*

# C H I L D R E N S P A G E S

## Database Focus: Holidays

The holiday season is full of culture and tradition. Whatever you celebrate, there is plenty of information available in our databases at PPLD to help educate your youngsters on all kinds of cultures.

Start at the **Kids Web** and click on **Homework Help**. Choose the **Kid's Databases** option from the left hand side. You will find several good resources to help young students learn more about different cultures, holidays, and traditions. By choosing the **CultureGrams Online** database, you will have access to over 200 reports on countries and cultures, and state reports outlining the diversity and history of each U.S. state and the District of Columbia. Choosing the **World Edition** will give you an interactive map. By clicking on any country on the map you can learn more about that country and its culture.

Next, choose **Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of World Holidays** from the **Kid's Database** page. You will find in-depth information on world holidays. For example by doing a simple search of "United States," many informative articles will come up giving information about the many holidays that we celebrate here in the U.S. Maybe you are looking for a fun twist on culture.

Choose **Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of Foods and Recipes of the World** from the **Kid's Database** page. This database provides comprehensive coverage of the foods and recipes from 70 representative countries and culture groups worldwide. By doing a simple search of "cookies" you will find many different texts available on different countries and their type of cookies.

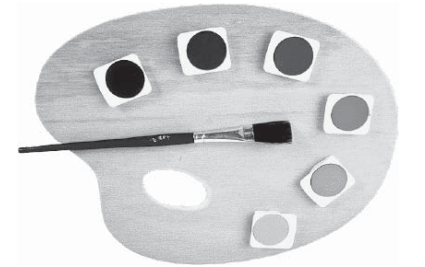
You are bound to have fun searching for your particular culture's background and information!

## Homeschool Resources at the Library

At this workshop, learn about Library websites, how to search the Catalog, and visit with local area homeschool support groups and co-ops. There is something for everyone in the family! It takes place at the Monument Branch Library (1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr. in Monument) on Monday, January 25 from 1 - 4 p.m. Register on [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) or call 488-2370.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Homeschool Art Show

All homeschooled students are invited to submit one piece of art: an unframed drawing, painting, photograph, or sculpture to be exhibited in East Library's Children's Department from Jan. 15 - Feb. 21, 2010. Bring artwork to the Children's Department the week of Jan. 4, 2010.



Join us for a reception and refreshments for all artists and their families and friends on Feb. 21, 2010 from 2 - 3 p.m. Artists may take their artwork home that day. All artwork must be picked up by Feb. 28, 2010. For more information, contact Mary Grant at 531-6333, x1407, or [mgrant@ppld.org](mailto:mgrant@ppld.org).

## Celebrate with Kids' Books

Here's where to find great books about winter celebrations at the library.

December	
<b>Chanukah/Hanukkah</b>	394.267
<b>Christmas</b>	394.2663
<b>Kwanzaa</b>	394.261 and 394.2612
January	
<b>New Year's</b>	394.2614
<b>Martin Luther King Day</b>	394.261 Martin Luther King Jr. 323.092 (Biography)
February	
<b>Black History Month</b>	
Slavery	306.362, 973.0496
Underground Railroad	973.7115
Individual biographies:	look up name in catalog
<b>Groundhog Day</b>	394.261
<b>Chinese New Year</b>	394.261
<b>Valentine's Day</b>	394.2618
<b>President's Day</b>	394.261
George Washington	973.41092 (Biography)
Abraham Lincoln	973.7092 (Biography)
<b>Mardi Gras</b>	394.25
World Holidays	
371.33 B835W	<b>Winter Holidays</b>
394 M646C	<b>Children's Festivals From Many Lands</b>
394.26 B256H	<b>The Holiday Handbook</b>
394.26 G467C	<b>A Calendar of Festivals</b>
394.26 G799H	<b>Holidays Around the World</b>
394.26 J77Ki	<b>Kids Around the World Celebrate!</b>
394.26 L948C	<b>Celebrations of Light: A Year of Holidays Around the World</b>
394.26 R893C	<b>Celebrate! Holidays Around the World</b>
394.26 W677W	<b>Why Do We Celebrate That?</b>