

Interreligious Thanksgiving Feast

Many harvest festivals around the world include feasts of thanksgiving. In this lesson, children will learn about some foods used in harvest celebrations from different religious and cultural traditions. Using this knowledge and basic math skills, students will plan an intercultural thanksgiving feast of their own.

Grades: 2 - 6

Skills: Art, Oral and Written Communication, Budgeting, Math

Materials Required: Poster Board, Crayons/Markers, Paper, Pencils, "Harvest Feast" worksheet, Handouts on particular Harvest Festivals

Recommended Resources:

- *The Autumn Equinox* by Ellen Jackson; *Children Just Like Me (Series): Celebrations!* By Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley
- *Festivals Together* by Sue Fitzjohn, Minda Weston, Judy Large
- *Celebrating the Great Mother: A Handbook of Earth-Honoring Activities for Parents and Children* by Cait Johnson and Maura D. Shaw.

PROCEDURE:

Step One: Begin with a discussion of what happens when Fall arrives, and changes that occur in the weather in some parts of the country.

Emphasize that Fall is the harvest season for many fruits, vegetables and crops in North America. Because of this, many people express gratitude for the food they are eating and other things for which they are grateful in the past year.

(Make sure that students understand that the harvest season is different in different parts of the world. In North America, the harvest season is from September - November, but in other parts of the world it is often different.)

Step Two: Ask students if they know of any harvest festivals that they celebrate. Thanksgiving (North American), Green Corn Festival (Native American), Pongal (South Indian), Sukkot (Jewish), Trung Thu (East Asian), and El Día de los Muertos (Mexican) are some examples that students may suggest. If students are not familiar with some of these holidays, you can use the recommended books or the information sheets included at the end of this