

December: Celebrations!

Are you looking for something fun and educational to do at home? Check out these library recommended STEAM activities, programs, podcasts and more! Click the links to visit activities and books.

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SCIENCE

National Cookie Day - December 4th

Activities:

Pre-School: [Santa's Cookies DIY Christmas Ornament](#)

Elementary: [Chocolate Chip Snowball Cookies](#)

All Ages: [Tangram Christmas Cookies](#)

Books to Read:

[Cookies](#), by Roth, Morgan

[Interrupting Chicken: Cookies for Breakfast](#), by Stein, David Ezra

[Good Housekeeping Christmas Cookies](#)

Interesting Fact about Cookies: The word "cookie" comes from the Dutch "koekje", meaning little cake.



Hanukkah

(A Jewish holiday that commemorates the dedicating of the second temple in Jerusalem)

Activities:

PreK: [Hanukkah Melting Menorah](#)

Elementary: [Hanukkah STEM: Paper Circuit Menorah](#)

All Ages: [Paper Dreidel](#)

Books to Read:

[The Story of Hanukkah](#) by Adler, David

[Daddy Christmas and Hanukkah Mama](#) by Alko, Selina

[Hanukkah Around the World](#) by Lehman-Wilzig, Tami

Interesting Fact about Hanukkah: Hanukkah lasts for eight nights, to commemorate how long the holy light burned. The temple required a holy light to burn inside at all times, but the Jews had only enough oil for one night. Incredibly, the light burned for eight days.



Christmas – Dec 25th

Activities:

PreK - [Grow A Crystal Angel Ornament](#)

Elementary – [Expanding Snowman](#)

All Ages – [Santa’s Magic Milk](#)

Books to Read:

[Christmas! Fun Things to Do and Make](#) by Goodings, Christina

[Christmas: A Biography](#) by Flanders, Judith

[It’s Christmas!](#) by Prelutsky, Jack

Interesting Fact about Christmas:

Christmas trees were first used by ancient Egyptians and Romans. The origin or the use of Christmas trees goes way back to ancient Egyptians and Romans. They used evergreen trees like fir or pine trees, wreaths, and garlands. And the use of modern Christmas trees started in Germany in the 16th century. Instead of the glitzy decorations that we see on them today, they were decorated with fruits and nuts. Wet bet you didn’t know this interesting fact about the Christmas tree!



Kwanzaa – December 26th to January 1st

(Kwanzaa is a celebration of African American culture and heritage)

Activities:

PreK – Handprint Kinara

Elementary – Celebrate Kwanzaa: Weave a Mkeka

All Ages – Egg Carton Kinara

Books to Read:

My Family Celebrates Kwanzaa by Bullard, Lisa

The Story Behind Kwanzaa by Shofner, Melissa Rae

Seven Spools of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story by Medearis, Angela Shelf

Interesting Fact about Kwanzaa: Gifts are given during Kwanzaa, but there are no deities involved. Instead, Kwanzaa is a seven day ritual to welcome the first harvests to the home for the New Year. The observance celebrates community rather than reliance on a higher power.

