

Student Worksheet for “Olde Fashioned Christmas and Winter Festivals”

(Answer Sheet)

1. What is the ancient pagan name for the winter solstice holiday—a name that we still hear associated with a large log for the fireplace?
_____ (Yule)
2. What holiday name literally means “sun stands still” and is celebrated on the longest night of the year? _____ (Winter Solstice)
3. Name some evergreen branches that ancient people brought into their homes during the Solstice Celebration because they reminded people that with the lengthening of the days in spring the earth would spring to life again. _____ (holly and ivy fir, pine, cedar)
4. Jews celebrate _____ by lighting a single candle or lamp wick each night during this eight-day holiday to remember a miracle that took place many years ago. (Hanukkah)
5. Idaho residents should love this Hanukkah food called “Latkes” because they are made from _____ (potatoes).
6. The miracle that Jews celebrate at Hanukkah occurred when only one days’ worth of sacred oil lasted for _____ (eight days).
7. A holiday that was created to celebrate African American Culture and to promote a sense of pride and unity in the Black community begins on Dec. 26 and is called _____ (Kwanzaa).
8. At this African American festival families light a single _____ (candle) each day and each day they celebrate one of seven principles.

9. The seven candles are placed in a Kinara, a candle holder that has often been crafted by the family and contains three red candles, three green candles, and one that is _____ (black).
10. In Mexico many families celebrate the Christmas holiday by suspending decorative pots filled with candies are called _____ (piñatas).
11. India is a land with many regions, many cultures and many festivals. What item that American children love to play with in spring and summer is used in a “new year” festival in India? _____ (kites)
12. Where was your favorite nativity from? (answers will vary)