
7 Chapter 7 HOLIDAYS



Programs:

1. Armistice Day: Remembering the Doughboys of World War I
2. Christmas Jeopardy
3. Holiday Ideas – Poems – Crafts
4. Learn a Craft – Make a Gift
5. Spirit of Christmas
6. Thanksgiving
7. Veterans Day: Remembering the War Years and the Fireside Chats

Other Program Ideas:

1. Arbor Day & Trees
2. Seasons

Sources:

Annie's Home Page – <http://www.annieshomepage.com>

Arbor Day – <http://www.arboday.org>

Celebrate! Holidays in the USA –

<http://www.usemb.se/Holidays/celebrate/index.html>

Holidays Around the World –

<http://www.worldbook.com/features/holidays/html/holidays.htm>

Holiday Insights – <http://www.holidayinsights.com>

Holiday Traditions – <http://www.enduringpress.com>

HOLIDAYS

Program Title:

Armistice Day: Remembering the Doughboys of World War I

Description/Summary:

After a discussion of the history of Armistice Day, a 10-15 minutes excerpt from the film "Doughboys: Heroes of WWI" was shown. Following the singing of four military "theme" songs, we discussed how Armistice Day changed to Veterans Day and how we have celebrated it in the past and today. We concluded with the singing of several patriotic songs.

Materials/Equipment/Resources

TV/VCR:

Doughboys: Heroes of WWI. Los Angeles: On Deck Home Entertainment, 1995. 46 min.

Grigoli, Valorie. *Patriotic Holidays and Celebrations*. NY: F. Watts, 1985.

Hatch, Jane M. *American Book of Days*. 3rd ed. NY: H.W. Wilson, 1978.

Songs:

"Army Goes Rolling Along," "Anchors Aweigh," "America the Beautiful," "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Helpful Hints:

I didn't bother trying to find music to the songs, just the words, and it went quite well because everyone knows the music.

HOLIDAYS

Program Title:

Christmas Jeopardy

Description/Summary:

Use a tri-fold storyboard and clear adhesive backed CD pockets (cut top two inches off) to design the jeopardy board. Align the pockets into five columns of six pockets using the top pocket to insert a category heading and the remaining five with the point values of 100-500. Behind the point values, insert a card with a question and four multiple choice answers. Seniors usually can recognize the correct answer if they hear it. An example: category heading, "Santa Claus". Question: Santa's nose is like what fruit?" Possible answers: a tomato, a strawberry, an apple, a cherry. Categories used for this program: Santa Claus, Christmas movies/books, Christmas traditions, Religious, Holiday Songs.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

It is easy to take the program "on the road" if using a tri-fold storyboard. There are plenty of Christmas facts on Google to use as questions. Bi-Folkal Kits are also good resources to use to gather ideas and questions. A theme from the Kits can also be used.

Helpful Hints:

Use Velcro for your title card, "Christmas Jeopardy". In that way, the storyboard can be used for other seasons or events, such as Spring (March, April, May, Songs, Easter) or Ohio (Cities, Sports, Made in Ohio, __County—insert appropriate county).



HOLIDAYS

Program Title:

Holiday Ideas – Poems - Crafts

Description/Summary:

This program was designed for the very elderly as a small group discussion and reminiscence session. It was done at a nursing home where interested residents sat informally around a table. The program began with a holiday related short story or poem, followed by a word game, e.g. "Busy as a _____".

An easy fast craft was incorporated during some of the sessions. Using stencils and making chalk pictures on dark blue paper was a well received craft for the winter holidays.

Materials/Equipment/Resources

Paper, scissors, crayon, chalk, stencils or whatever was needed for the day's particular project was gathered and ready to distribute before the patrons arrived. Poems and short stories were selected ahead of time. Sometimes picture books from the children's collection were used. One example was Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening", illustrated by Susan Jeffers.

Helpful Hints:

Since the primary purpose of the program was one of interaction and discussion, the crafts were purposely short and intentionally down-played. They were intended chiefly as catalysts to stimulate conversation and help jog memories.

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Program Title:

Learn a Craft – Make a Gift

Description/Summary:

This four part program began with a demonstration of small craft projects which would make unique and inexpensive Christmas gifts. Crafts were simple enough for the novice or inexperienced crafts person. After the demonstration, the audience had time to work on their own projects.

Crafts for this four session program included:

1. Soft frames.
2. Bread dough Christmas pincushions.
3. Cathedral window pincushions.
4. Molded chocolates.

MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT/RESOURCES:

For the first three sessions, participants were asked to bring their own scissors, cookie sheets and sewing notions (needle, thread, and pins). The cost of materials was absorbed by the local Friends of the Library. However, participants were also asked to contribute \$.50 - \$1.00 per session for supplies. Demonstrators were volunteers.

Helpful Hints:

Samples of the items to be made and related craft projects were displayed in the library two weeks prior to the first session. Because of the expense and time involved, heavy publicity through the local newspapers and in-house flyers or bookmarks would help assure a satisfactory turn out.

HOLIDAYS

Program Title:

The Spirit of Christmas

Description/Summary:

The library presented a series of short readings and poetry on various aspects of Christmas in which the spirit of Christmas was conveyed. This program also includes a game and a visit from Santa Claus.

Introduction	"Christmas" poem by Helen Barker
Reading	"A Legend of the First Christmas" by Mala Powers
Filmstrip	"The Little Drummer Boy"
Poem	"Legend of the Poinsettia" by Minnie Klemme

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

Poems and short readings can be found in *Ideals* magazines and in *Christmas in Art and Literature* annuals.

Helpful Hints:

Some senior citizens enjoy reading aloud, etc., and they should be asked to participate in the programs. This is a means of getting them involved and also helps in the event of a shortage of staff. Singing Christmas Carols at the end of the program helps pull the whole evening together.

HOLIDAYS

Program Title:

Thanksgiving

Description/Summary:

First the group reminisced about how they celebrated the holiday in the past as well as plans for the current one. Then a poem from "Ideals Magazine" was read and the group created one using the formula found under the program "Autumn Poetry" in the Fine Arts section of Elder-berries. Finally, there was discussion of the history of Thanksgiving and the film, *First Thanksgiving*, was shown.

Materials/Equipment/Resources

16mm projector

Laminated poster board with water-soluble markers

First Thanksgiving, Irwindale, CA: Barr Films, 1991. 19 min.

Hatch, Jane M. *American Book of Days*. 3rd ed. NY: H.W. Wilson, 1978.

Helpful Hints:

After creating the poem, I gave it to a clerk to type on a paper with a harvest border and then duplicated it on colored paper (while the film was being shown). Each participant was given a copy of the poem to take home with them.



HOLIDAYS

Program Title:

Veterans Day: Remembering the War Years and the Fireside Chats

Description/Summary:

Following a discussion about the history of Veterans Day, the first part of the video "Roosevelt and the Fireside Chats: The War Years" was shown. Then the audience reminisced about their experiences during World War II, and the rest of the video was shown. After a discussion of current Veterans Day celebrations, the program concluded with a group recitation of the poem, "In Flanders Fields," by John McCrae.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

TV/VCR

Hatch, Jane M. American Book of Days. 3rd ed. NY: H.W. Wilson. 1978.

"Roosevelt and the Fireside Chats: The War Years" (video) Deerfield, IL: Learning Corp. of America. 28 min.

