

# #10562

## AMERICA'S NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA, 2003

Grade Level: K-6

10 Minutes



### CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

[#2565 COLUMBUS DAY](#)

[#2625 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY](#)

[#2633 PRESIDENTS' DAY](#)

[#3277 OLD GLORY](#)

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

## Grades 1 to 3

# America's National Holidays

## Primary Citizenship Series

**Subject Areas:** Social Studies, U.S. History, Citizenship

**Synopsis:** The young narrator, Olga, touches on the significance and traditions associated with each of America's national holidays. She describes her Ukrainian-American family's New Year traditions and compares it with the ancient Babylonian New Year, Chinese New Year, Japanese New Year, and Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. She goes on to discuss Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

\*NOTE: The holidays represented in this program include the 10 federal holidays observed by the United States government. For a list of these holidays and explanations of how their calendar dates are set, please visit <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/docs/holidays.html>. However, we have made two slight additions: 1. Washington's Birthday, a federal holiday, is by custom combined with Lincoln's Birthday as President's Day, all three falling in February. 2. Flag Day has been added since the Primary Citizenship Series has a program about the American Flag and its image appears throughout the series.

### Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to identify 10 American holidays
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to compare and contrast New Year celebrations in various countries and cultures
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to describe how each national holiday is traditionally celebrated

### Pre-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

Why do we celebrate holidays? What is your favorite holiday? Why? What traditions do you observe on this holiday?

**Vocabulary:** heritage, traditions, generations, celebration, national holidays, brunch, resolutions, civil rights, Constitution, rights, equality, nonviolence, Civil War, Gettysburg Address, armed forces, veterans, Declaration of Independence, Pilgrims, Mayflower Compact, self-government, goodwill, diverse (diversity)

### Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Describe some of the New Year's traditions mentioned in the program. How do you celebrate the New Year? Discuss the similarities and differences between your celebrations and the various celebrations described in the program. What do these diverse or different ways of celebrating tell you about the people of our country?
- 2) Why do we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day? In what movement was he a leader? Why is he an important figure in American history? What should we remember when we observe his birthday?
- 3) Whose birthdays are celebrated on Presidents' Day? Why is George Washington an important president? Why is Abraham Lincoln an important president? What happened during Lincoln's presidency?
- 4) Which group of American citizens do we honor on Memorial Day? Why do you think it is important to honor men and women who have served in the armed forces?

- 5) What do we celebrate on Flag Day? What do the stripes on the American flag represent? What do the stars represent? How do we celebrate Flag Day?
- 6) What event is celebrated on the Fourth of July? How do you celebrate this holiday?
- 7) What group of people is honored on Labor Day? What kinds of workers are honored on this holiday? Why should workers have their own holiday? How do workers benefit our communities? What workers make your life better?
- 8) What achievement did Christopher Columbus make? Why is he important to Americans?
- 9) Who is honored on Veteran's Day? How is this holiday usually celebrated? Do you know any veterans?
- 10) Why did the Pilgrims come to America? What was the name of their colony? What was the Mayflower Compact? Why do you think the Pilgrims needed rules for their community? Who helped the Pilgrims survive in the New World? Describe the first Thanksgiving. How do you celebrate Thanksgiving?
- 11) Do you celebrate Christmas? What Christmas traditions do you observe with your family? Do you celebrate different or other December or winter holidays? Describe them.
- 12) Do you celebrate any holidays that were not mentioned in the program? What holidays do you celebrate? How do you celebrate them? Do you go to school on these days?

**Additional Activities:**

- 1) Have students create calendar, marking each of the holidays covered in the program with a drawing or symbol. Students may also want to mark other holidays that they celebrate, such as Valentine's Day, Cinco de Mayo, and St. Patrick's Day.
- 2) Have students create their own family holiday books. Students should create a page for each holiday their family celebrates. You may also want to have students interview their parents about how they celebrated holidays as children, and include this information in their book.
- 3) Ask students to work individually or in groups to create new holidays. Students should consider what event, person, or group the holiday will honor, how it will be celebrated, what it will be called, and when it will be.

**Related New Dimension Media Titles:**

- America's Flags
- We Pledge Allegiance
- We Become Citizens
- We Vote
- America's Songs of Liberty
- America's Symbols

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