

ATC Centers Holidays & Exposure

January: • Chinese New Year (January 28) - A 15-day celebration marking the start of the lunar new year in the Chinese calendar with origins dating back over 2,000 years in China, celebrating family and new beginnings.

Craft: make Chinese dragon masks or lanterns.. It is a time for families to gather and feast, exchange red envelopes filled with money, and decorate with red and gold.

Craft: Red Envelope Craft - Cut out red paper to make envelopes, have children decorate them with gold paint or markers, and fill them with sweets or small toys to give to family and friends.

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 17) - A day honoring the life and legacy of the civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. It is a day to reflect on his message of equality, peace, and non-violent activism.

Craft: "I Have a Dream" Handprint Craft - Cut out a large piece of paper, have children place their handprints on it, and write their dreams for the future. Display the paper in a prominent place to remind them of their aspirations.

- National Puzzle Day (January 29) - A day to celebrate the joys of puzzles and challenge your brain.

Craft: Puzzle Craft - Cut out colorful paper into puzzle pieces, let children decorate the pieces however they like, then glue them together to form a unique work of art.

February: • Lunar New Year (February 12) - A celebration of the lunar new year, marked by feasting, exchanging red envelopes, and decorating with lanterns and symbols of good luck.

Craft: Dragon Craft - Cut out paper to make a dragon, have children decorate it with bright colors, then display it to bring good luck and prosperity.

- Valentine's Day (February 14) - A day to celebrate love and affection by giving gifts, cards, and flowers to loved ones.

Craft: Heart Craft - Cut out paper hearts, have children decorate them with paint, markers, or glitter, then give them to friends and family to show them you care.

- Presidents' Day (February 21) - A day to celebrate the birthdays of two of America's greatest Presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Craft: President Craft - Cut out a picture of a President, have children color it in and decorate it, then display it to show their patriotism.

March: • Holi (March 28) - A Hindu spring festival celebrated by throwing colored powder, feasting, and singing and dancing.

Craft: Holi Powder Craft - Mix food coloring and cornstarch to create colored powder, let children throw it, dance, and play games to celebrate the joys of spring.

- Earth Day (April 22) - A day to celebrate the planet and take action to protect it.

Craft: Recycling Craft - Collect recyclable materials like paper, cardboard, and plastic, have children sort and clean them, then create something new and beautiful from them to show their commitment to sustainability.

April: • Songkran (April 13-15) - A Thai festival to celebrate the start of the traditional Thai New Year, marked by water fights and the cleaning of Buddha images.

Craft: Water Gun Craft - Cut out a cardboard water gun, have children decorate it, then use it to join in the fun of the water fights and celebrate the start of a new year.

- Earth Day (April 22) - A day to celebrate the planet and take action to protect it.

Craft: Tree Craft - Cut out a paper tree, have children decorate it with leaves and flowers, then display it to show their appreciation for nature and the environment.

May: • Cinco de Mayo - Commemorates Mexico's victory over France at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. Celebrated with parades, Mexican food, and music.

Craft: Make colorful paper flowers and streamers to decorate for a Cinco de Mayo party.

- Ramadan - A month-long period of fasting, prayer, and reflection observed by Muslims worldwide. The dates vary based on the lunar calendar.

Craft: Make a paper lantern and decorate with Islamic patterns and symbols to represent the holiday. • Vesak - A Buddhist holiday that celebrates the birth, enlightenment, and

passing away of Buddha. It falls on the full moon day in May. Celebrated with prayer, meditation, and offering food to the poor.

Craft: Create a paper mache Buddha statue and paint it in vibrant colors, decorating it with flowers and offerings.

June:

World Ocean Day **June 8th** to raise awareness about the importance of the ocean and its conservation. The ocean plays a critical role in regulating the Earth's climate and supports a diverse range of wildlife, and World Ocean Day provides an opportunity to reflect on its significance and what we can do to protect it.

Craft for Kids:

Ocean in a Bottle: Fill a clear plastic bottle with blue food coloring and vegetable oil to create a simple representation of the ocean. Add in small toys, shells, or other ocean-themed items to make it more interesting.

Ocean Scene Suncatcher: Have kids cut out various shapes (e.g. waves, fish, sea stars, etc.) from blue and green tissue paper and glue them to a piece of clear contact paper. Once complete, hang the suncatcher in a sunny window to bring a touch of the ocean indoors.

Paper Plate Sea Turtle: Cut out a sea turtle shape from a green paper plate and use googly eyes, paper or felt for flippers, and a paper for the head.

Father's Day (June 20)

Father's Day is a holiday celebrated on the third Sunday of June to honor and appreciate fathers and father figures. It is a day to spend time with dad and show appreciation for all he has done.

Craft: Make a Father's Day card with a handprint tie. Cut out a tie shape from construction paper and have your child make hand prints on it with paint. Write a special message for dad on the tie.

Summer solstice **June 20-22** and marks the longest day and shortest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

Craft idea for kids:

Sun print art: Provide kids with a piece of light-sensitive paper and objects from nature like leaves, flowers, shells etc. Have them place the objects on the paper, expose it to sunlight for a few minutes and then rinse with water to reveal a sun print.

Sun hats: Help kids decorate plain white paper hats with paint, markers, stickers or whatever they like. Wear them during outdoor activities to celebrate the arrival of summer and the longest day of the year.

July:

Independence Day (July 4)

Independence Day, also known as the 4th of July, is a federal holiday in the United States to commemorate the country's declaration of independence from Great Britain in 1776. It is a day of picnics, barbecues, fireworks, and patriotic events.

Craft: Make patriotic wreaths for your front door. Cut out stars and stripes from construction paper and glue them onto a cardboard ring. Decorate the wreath with ribbon and other festive items.

August:

- International Friendship Day (August 1)

International Friendship Day is a day to celebrate and appreciate the bond of friendship. It is a day to reach out to friends and spend time together.

Craft: Make friendship bracelets with your child. Cut strings of different colors and knot them together to make bracelets. Share with friends as a symbol of your friendship.

September:

Grandparents Day (September 12)

Grandparents Day is a holiday celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day to honor and appreciate grandparents. It is a day to spend time with grandparents and make them feel loved and appreciated.

Craft: Make a photo frame for grandparents with your child's handprint. Paint your child's hand and press it onto the frame. Add a picture of your child and decorate the frame with glitter and stickers.

October:

Halloween (October 31)

Halloween is a holiday celebrated on the night of October 31. It is a time for dressing up in costumes, going trick-or-treating, and telling spooky stories.

Craft: Make Halloween masks with your child. Cut out a mask shape from cardboard and let your child decorate it with paint, markers, and other craft materials. Attach a string to the mask so it can be worn.

November:

Thanksgiving (November 25)

Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November in the United States and on the second Monday of October in Canada. It is a time for giving thanks, spending time with family, and enjoying a big feast.

Craft: Make a thankful turkey with your child. Cut out a turkey shape from construction paper and let your child write or draw things they are thankful for on the feathers. Attach the feathers to the turkey and display it as a reminder of all the things to be grateful for.

Veterans Day is celebrated on **November 11th** in the United States. Craft for kids on Veterans Day: Veterans Day is a federal holiday observed annually in the United States on November 11th. It honors military veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, particularly those who have died while in military service. The holiday has its roots in the end of World War I, and has evolved to include all U.S. veterans, regardless of whether they served during war or peace time. On Veterans Day, many people attend ceremonies, parades, and events to pay tribute to those who have served in the military and to celebrate their sacrifices and service.

1. Handprint Salute Craft: Cut out handprints from construction paper and decorate them with markers or paint to resemble a uniform. Write "Thank You" on the handprints and glue them onto a paper plate to make a wreath.
2. Paper Plate Wreath: Cut a paper plate in half and decorate it with red, white, and blue streamers or construction paper to make a patriotic wreath.
3. Flag Craft: Cut out a large flag shape from construction paper and let kids decorate it with stars, stripes, and other patriotic symbols.
4. Medal Craft: Cut out medal shapes from construction paper and let kids decorate them with markers or paint. Attach a ribbon to the medal and hang it from the wall.
5. Poppy Craft: Cut out large poppy flowers from red construction paper and let kids decorate them with markers or paint. Glue the poppies onto a piece of cardboard to make a wreath.

December:

Hanukkah (December 2-10)

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday also known as the Festival of Lights. It celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem and commemorates the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days.

Craft: Create a Hanukkah menorah with clay or paper. Let your child paint and decorate it, and use it to light the candles each night of the holiday.

Winter Solstice is the day with the shortest amount of daylight and longest night of the year, which usually occurs around **December 21st or 22nd** in the Northern Hemisphere and around June 20th or 21st in the Southern Hemisphere. It marks the turning point of the seasons and symbolizes the re-birth of the sun. To celebrate the winter solstice, here is a fun craft for kids:

Sun Catcher: Cut out sun shapes from colorful construction paper and decorate with glitter, sequins, or paint. Hang in a window to catch the light and symbolize the return of the sun.

Winter Solstice Wreath: Create a wreath out of pine branches, evergreen leaves, and berries. Add a bow and a sun symbol in the center to represent the winter solstice.

Yule Log Craft: Cut a log shape out of brown construction paper and decorate with red and green paint, glitter, and sequins. Hang on a string to symbolize the Yule log, which was burned in ancient times to celebrate the winter solstice.

Christmas Day (December 25)

Christmas is a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a time of family gatherings, gift-giving, and festive meals.

Craft: Make a paper chain to decorate your home. Cut out strips of paper in red, green, and white and have your child glue them together to make a long chain.

Kwanzaa (December 26-January 1)

Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday that celebrates family, community, and culture. The seven days of the holiday are each dedicated to a different principle, including unity, self-determination, and creative work.

Craft: Make a Kwanzaa kinara with your child. Cut out a candle holder from cardboard and let your child paint and decorate it. You can also make and decorate the seven candles to represent each principle.

Boxing Day (December 26)

Boxing Day is a holiday celebrated in Britain, Canada, and other countries. It is a day for giving to others, especially to those in need. It is also a day for visiting family and friends.

Craft: Make a cardboard box for a toy drive or donation. Decorate it together and fill it with toys or other items to donate to a local charity.

During the Month of December, we like to explore around the world and see how others celebrate you can expect your child to be exposed to the following...

1. Germany: In Germany, families decorate Christmas trees and exchange gifts on Christmas Eve. A traditional craft for children to make is creating paper ornaments to hang on the tree.

2. Italy: In Italy, Christmas Eve is the main celebration, with families gathering for a large feast. A popular craft is making La Befana, a witch-like figure who is said to bring gifts to children.
3. France: In France, children hang stockings for Père Noël (Father Christmas) to fill with gifts. A craft for children is to make a Père Noël puppet or decoration.
4. Sweden: In Sweden, the tradition of Christmas goats, which symbolize good luck, is popular. A craft for children is to make a paper or wooden goat decoration.
5. Mexico: In Mexico, Las Posadas, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for a stable to give birth to Jesus, is a popular tradition. A craft for children is to make pinatas to be filled with candy and broken open during the celebration.
6. Greece: In Greece, Christmas Eve is a time for families to gather and exchange gifts. A traditional craft is to make a sugar-coated pastry called kourambiedes, which is served during the holiday season.
7. Russia: In Russia, people celebrate Christmas on January 7th and the tradition of ded moroz, a Santa-like figure who delivers presents, is popular. A craft for children is to make a ded moroz doll or decoration.
8. Australia: In Australia, where Christmas takes place in the summer, barbecues and beach outings are popular. A craft for children is to make paper plate sun hats to wear during outdoor celebrations.
9. Poland: In Poland, Wigilia, a traditional Christmas Eve meal, is the highlight of the holiday season. A craft for children is to make pisanki, decorative eggs, which are a traditional symbol of Easter but also used in Christmas decorations.
10. Denmark: In Denmark, Julefrokost, a Christmas feast, is a big celebration. A craft for children is to make paper ornaments for the Christmas tree, such as paper stars or hearts.
11. Canada: In Canada, families often exchange gifts and decorate trees, but also celebrate with outdoor activities like ice skating and sledding. A craft for children is to make paper snowflakes to hang in the window.
12. Portugal: In Portugal, families gather for a big meal on Christmas Eve and traditional sweets like bolo rei, a cake shaped like a crown, are served. A craft for children is to make homemade bolo rei or other sweets to give as gifts.
13. Norway: In Norway, families often exchange gifts and decorate the house with candles and ornaments. A craft for children is to make paper ornaments, such as paper lanterns, to hang around the house.
14. Sweden: In Sweden, Christmas Eve is a time for families to gather and exchange gifts, with a traditional meal being a smorgasbord of pickled herring and other seafood. A craft for children is to make paper ornaments for the Christmas tree, such as paper stars or hearts.

15. Argentina: In Argentina, where Christmas is in the summer, outdoor activities like barbecues and beach outings are popular. A craft for children is to make sun-themed decorations, like paper sunflowers or beach-themed ornaments.
16. Philippines - Filipinos celebrate Christmas with the "Simbang Gabi" mass, which is a series of nine pre-dawn masses, starting from December 16th. They also decorate their homes with "parols", star-shaped lanterns, and celebrate with feasts and gift-giving. Craft: Make a Parol lantern using bamboo sticks, colored paper, and string lights.
17. Japan - Christmas is not a national holiday in Japan and is not widely celebrated, however, it has become more popular in recent years, especially among young people. Christmas Eve is often considered a romantic holiday, and couples will exchange gifts and enjoy fancy meals. Craft: Create a personalized Christmas card to exchange with friends or a loved one.
18. India - Christmas is celebrated in India by Christians, however, it is not a public holiday. People decorate their homes and churches with lights, flowers, and stars. They attend church services and enjoy festive meals with family and friends. Craft: Make a paper star decoration to hang in your home or give as a gift.
19. South Korea - Christmas is celebrated in South Korea, although it is not a national holiday. Many people decorate their homes with lights and ornaments, and exchange gifts. Craft: Create a Christmas wreath using evergreen branches, ribbons, and small ornaments.
20. China - Christmas is not a national holiday in China, however, it is becoming increasingly popular, especially in big cities. People exchange gifts and decorate their homes with lights and trees, similar to Western celebrations. Craft: Make a paper Christmas tree using green construction paper, scissors, and glue.
21. Vietnam - Christmas is not widely celebrated in Vietnam as it is not a national holiday. Some Vietnamese people, especially in urban areas, will exchange gifts and decorate their homes with lights. Craft: Make a bamboo star lantern to hang in your home or give as a gift.
22. In Indonesia, Christmas is known as Hari Natal and is celebrated on December 25th. Indonesian Christians decorate their homes and churches with lights, lanterns, and stars to symbolize the star that led the Three Wise Men to baby Jesus. On Christmas Eve, many attend midnight mass, sing carols, and exchange gifts. In the morning, families come together for a big meal, which typically includes traditional Indonesian dishes like rice cakes and satay.

Craft for Indonesian Christmas: • Make lanterns: Cut colorful paper into various shapes and sizes, fold them into a lantern shape, and decorate with glitter, stickers, and other embellishments. • Decorate a star: Cut out a large star shape from cardboard and decorate it with paint, glitter, and other materials to create a symbol

of the star that led the Three Wise Men to Jesus. • Make rice cakes: Mix together glutinous rice, sugar, and food coloring to make brightly-colored rice cakes. Shape into small balls and press onto a skewer to create a festive treat.

Dear Parents,

At ATC Center, we aim to create a safe and inclusive learning environment for children of all backgrounds. Our goal is to educate and expose children to diverse cultures, customs, and traditions from around the world. Our intention is to foster an understanding and appreciation of different perspectives, and not to promote or influence any specific culture.

It is important to note that we are not promoting or practicing any particular religion or cultural values. Our focus is solely on providing an educational experience and promoting diversity and inclusivity. Our activities and programs are designed to allow children to explore and understand different cultures in a fun and engaging way.

We believe that by exposing children to different cultures and traditions, we can help them develop an open-minded and accepting attitude towards people from all walks of life. This in turn, will help them grow into well-rounded and empathetic individuals.

We would like to assure you that your child's well-being and comfort are our top priorities, and we will always respect the values and beliefs of each family. If you have any concerns or questions about our programs and activities, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Erika Snell

Founder

ATC Center & Academy

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