

World of Wonder

Educational Standards and Suggested Activities

Release week December 23, 2012: Colonial Christmas

Standards

- Current Events: Students will discuss materialism.
- Social Studies: Students will report on traditions such as wreaths and the 12 days of Christmas.
- Social Studies: Students will report on the beliefs of Puritans and early Quakers regarding Christmas celebrations.

Activities

1. Use the News: Some people say modern society makes Christmas too “materialistic.” What does that mean? Read the newspaper for articles and advertisements about Christmas. What message do they give? Have a class or small-group discussion about materialism. Have “things” become too important in our lives? If so, why is that bad?
2. Christmas wreaths were hung on front doors during the 12 days of Christmas in Colonial times. What were the 12 days of Christmas? What is their origin? Also, what is the significance of a wreath? Were wreaths made only for Christmas? Research and report on what you learn.
3. The Puritans and early Quakers did not celebrate Christmas. Why not? What were their religious beliefs concerning celebrations like Christmas? Research and summarize what you find out.

World of Wonder meets many state educational standards. This guide helps teachers identify standards and related activities generally intended for grade 6, but teachers can modify activities to the appropriate grade.