

## Holiday Mobile

**Objective:** Students will make a holiday inspired mobile and learn about different cultural holidays celebrated in the winter season around the world.

### Topics & Keywords for Discussion:

**Solstice-** either of the two times in the year, the summer solstice and the winter solstice, when the sun reaches its highest or lowest point in the sky at noon, marked by the longest and shortest days.

**Hanukkah-** a Jewish holiday also known as the festival of lights, commemorating a miraculous victory for the Jewish people in 200 BC

**Kwanzaa-** a week-long annual celebration to honor African heritage in African-American culture. It is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in gift-giving and a feast. Kwanzaa has seven core principles.

**Christmas-** Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world.

**Materials:** beads, string, paper plates or card stock, tape, green paint, scissors, hot glue guns and hot glue sticks, hole punch.

**Opening activity:** The Winter season is a time for many holiday celebrations: some are celebrating the changing seasons (**Winter Solstice**), some are related to biblical and historical events (**Christmas and Hanukkah**), some are opportunities to honor the qualities of cultural heritage (**Kwanzaa**). Give students an opportunity to share their favorite holiday traditions and how their family and community celebrate during the winter season.

**Core Activity:** First, students will paint their plates or card stock GREEN, or BLUE (depending on what kind of holiday they are celebrating) both sides. After the paint has dried, students will cut the card stock or plates in a spiral shape, so that they have a curly circle. Then, they will create 3 or 4 strings of beads to hang off their spiral shape: use hot glue or tape to attach the strings to the spiral, or have students punch holes in the spiral to attach the strings of beads. They can also make paper 'ornaments' by cutting out small shapes from paper and hanging those instead of strings of beads. Students should also create a loop of string to hang the spiral from above.

**Reflection:** Have students clean up in stages throughout this activity- once the painting is complete, students should clean their paint-brushes and put the paints away, etc. Have students reflect aloud about cleaning and tidying up- have they noticed their families organizing or decorating for Christmas or for entertaining company? What chores or cleaning responsibilities do they manage at home? Why is important to clean up the art room, and keep supplies organized: for example, why is it important to clean the paintbrushes? What would happen if they DIDN'T clean or organize supplies after use? The purpose of this reflection is to have students share responsibility for cleaning up after the art activity, and to see how important the clean-up process is for creating art! This can also be a time for students to sing and enjoy songs related to or in celebration of their favorite winter holiday!

