



## Holiday Pen Pals

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## Introduce the Unit and Key Vocabulary

Talk with students about what they will learn from the Unique Learning System Unit. Introduce key vocabulary to them using the descriptive teaching method.

**Example:** This unit explores holidays, traditions and geography in different countries around the world. Through stories and hands-on activities, student will develop an appreciation for diversity in traditions. They will also learn about different places and features on a map. The first story shares what things to write about in the letter and what questions to ask in return. Sharing of different traditions, food, locations, and thing they like to do are all good ideas. Holidays are shared: Kwanzaa, Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's Eve, Boxing Day, Diwali, Jamhuri Day, Carnival and St. Lucia's Day. Things to do are sing songs, play games, light candles, watch a parade, decorate and wrap gifts.

## Read Passages While you TAAP

As you read the passages within each unit with students, remember to

TAAP: Talk about it, Ask a question, Acknowledge via response, and

Propel the conversation or Predict!

(View the TAAP resource on the AAC Language Lab to learn more about the TAAP strategy!)

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### Sample TAAP words/phrases:

Talk About It	Ask Questions	Acknowledge via Response	Propel the Conversation or Predict
holiday(s) traditions different sing play dance	What are some holiday traditions that you celebrate? What things do you do on these holidays? What should you write in a letter to a pen pal? How can you find out about people from other places?	I agree Buen trabajo Concordo oui hai Gut gemacht! good job	Tell me more and what else? What's next another idea? I think...



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## Talk About What you Learned

Summarize the unit with students and talk about what they learned. Ask open-ended questions to discuss what everyone thought, and to get them thinking about and reflecting on what they read.

**Sample questions for discussion:**

What did you learn about writing to pen pals from around the world? What did you learn about your classmates' or pen pals' traditions? Why is it important to know about other people around the world? What makes us the same? What makes us different from them? What is your favorite holiday tradition? What is a new tradition that you learned about?

## Discussion for Comprehension

## 4

After reading and summarizing the unit with students, use descriptive testing to further discuss the students' understanding of the unit or passage. Pose questions in a way that allows the student to answer the question using any word on their device.

**Sample Descriptive Testing Questions and responses:**

What are some new traditions you learned about?	What are some things we could tell/ ask in a pen pal letter?	Why is it important to know people from other countries?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• different food to eat</li><li>• play games</li><li>• watch a parade</li><li>• wear flowers</li><li>• watch lights</li><li>• light candles</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how you have fun</li><li>• what do you do to make you happy</li><li>• where you live</li><li>• what is it like</li><li>• tell them/ they about me</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• go find out same or different</li><li>• why they do that</li><li>• read more who they are</li><li>• know about them</li><li>• be nice and help if need</li></ul>