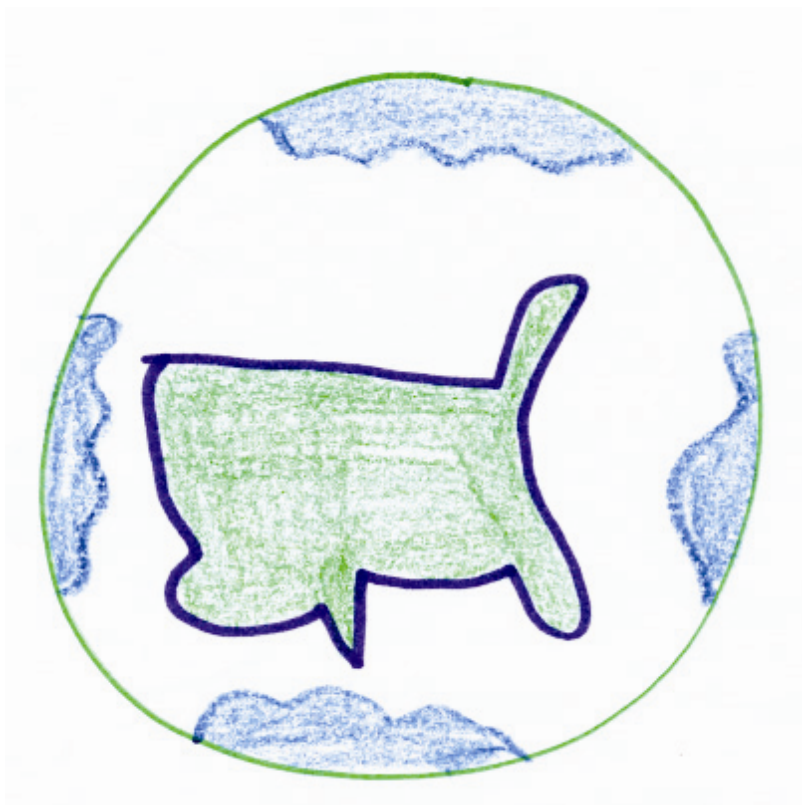


# Home for the Holidays



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# Introduction



In the United States, we celebrate special traditions and holidays. Some are religious holidays; others are historic and cultural. In this story we tell you about some holidays that we love to celebrate in the United States.

# JANUARY

Happy New Year! I'm Aaron. We all gather on New Year's Eve, to celebrate the upcoming year together. This is a great time to spend with my family. We count down to the new year together.

10...9...8...count with me!



# February



I'm Cecile. My favorite holiday is Valentines Day. It is always on February 14th. It is a great day to show people that you love them. My dad gives my mom a bouquet of roses and a box of chocolates.

I give my parents and friends big hugs.

## March and April

I'm Jan. Easter is a Christian holiday. We celebrate the day Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Many people go to church. The Easter Bunny brings candy for the children's Easter baskets.



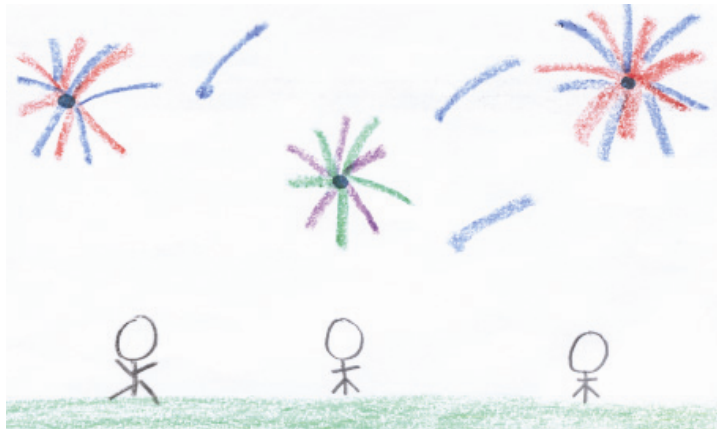
## May and June

I am Stephanie. I will graduate from high school in May. I will soon have my diploma. After the graduation ceremony, I will have a party to celebrate with family and friends.



## July

My name is Hannah. On the Fourth of July the United States celebrates its independence. It's the birthday of the United States. Family and friends eat hot dogs and watch the beautiful fireworks!





## August

My name is Caleb. I am celebrating my Bar Mitzvah. A Bar Mitzvah is celebrated when a Jewish boy has his 13th birthday and becomes an adult. We read from the Torah, the Jewish book of holy writings. We eat, dance, and celebrate. Bar Mitzvahs are not just celebrated in August. They are celebrated year round just like birthdays!



## September



My name is Khalid  
and I am Muslim.

Every year my  
family and I  
celebrate Ramadan.

During Ramadan  
we fast for a month.

We only eat after  
sundown. At the  
end of Ramadan,  
we have a big feast.

We thank Allah for  
our blessings.

## October



Boo! Happy Halloween! My name is Amy, but today I am a princess. On October 31st, we dress up in funny costumes. We go to the houses in our neighborhood, knock on the door, and say "Trick or treat!" Then we get candy!

## November

Happy Thanksgiving! I'm Brad. I am going to spend the day with my family. We will eat some delicious food and watch a parade and a football game. Thanksgiving is a day for showing how thankful we are for family and friends.



## December

Merry  
Christmas! I'm  
Audrey. Every  
year my family  
and I celebrate  
Christmas. On  
Christmas, we  
celebrate the  
birth of Jesus



Christ, and exchange gifts, We also decorate our  
homes with lights and a Christmas tree, and  
send Christmas cards to people as a warm  
greeting.



I'm Zahrd. We are  
celebrating the  
African American  
holiday Kwanzaa.  
Kwanzaa is held the  
last week of  
December.  
Kwanzaa comes  
from African  
celebrations of the  
first harvest.

During Kwanzaa, we also celebrate African his-  
tory and culture. Kwanzaa recognizes seven im-  
portant principles: Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima,  
Ujamaa, Nia, Kuumba, and Imani. Every princi-  
ple has a candle that goes with it. We light the  
candles with our families each night.