

Name: _____ Hour: _____ Favorite Holiday: _____

Holiday History – DAY ONE *{You'll be given time in class to research several widely recognized holidays. Choose THREE and complete one of the provided charts for each. The categories and questions below are intended as general guidelines; they're not hard rules for exactly what you must write in each space. Some spaces provide options; go with whatever best fits the holiday. Focus on what seems most related to the major elements of the holiday, how you can demonstrate your understanding of history in relation to the holiday, and on filling each space with the sort of information that makes it look like you did actual research and maybe even care a little about the results. If there's simply not enough information to fit all of the boxes according to the labels on each, change a few of the labels to fit the information you do have so the chart is complete and looks like you're a real academic go-getter.}*

Roots – Where did this holiday come from? When did it start? Why did it start? If there are several possible explanations for its roots, use the most likely one but indicate that's what it is – the most likely beginning. (You may use alternate roots as one of your Key Details if you wish.)

Evolution/Updates – How has this holiday changed over the years, and why? Did it just kinda happen, or were there intentional modifications or re-interpretation by someone? (For some holidays this has happened several times over the centuries, in which case you may split the major changes into different boxes if you wish.)

Connections – What is there in this holiday's roots or history which relates or connects in some way to something we've covered in class so far? Explain. (This being a World History class, you probably want to do a particularly nice job on this part.)

New Directions – What cultures, time periods, places, or issues came up in your research that we haven't covered and which you didn't really know much about? (Ex: "The feast may have begun with Druid rituals..." – Druids? That's a real thing!)

Details – Explain one specific element of celebrating this holiday and where it comes from historically. (Ex: "People traditionally 'bob for apples' on Halloween, probably because...")

Uncertainties – Things you come across in your research which don't match other versions of events or other explanations. Or, this can be relevant information your sources identify as unknowns. (Ex: "Historians suspect the use of brightly colored packaging may have been an attempt to confuse color-blind demons, but there's no solid evidence for this...")

Inferences/Values – What does this holiday suggest about the values, concerns, or beliefs of the cultures in which it began? How do changes over the years reflect changing values, concerns, or beliefs of the times and places in which they took place? How do current American rituals associated with this holiday reflect modern American values, concerns, or beliefs? (You don't have to tackle all of these in the same box, but every time you're able to explain how the changes in various holidays reflect the cultures around them, you look thoughtful and deep.)

Sources – You must have at least THREE online sources for each holiday. You don't need to copy the entire URL, but you should give the Home Page (Ex: HolidayHistory.com) and briefly explain why you think this site is a valid source of information. Is it from a major university? A government agency (assuming they have no compelling reason to lie to you about the history of Arbor Day or whatever)? A reputable organization or individual? Why do you trust this website?

Holiday Options:

New Year's Day
Valentine's Day
Chinese New Year
St. Patrick's Day
Cinco de Mayo
Ramadan
Easter
Juneteenth
Independence Day
Eid al-Adha
Yom Kippur
Columbus Day
Halloween
Thanksgiving
Hanukkah
Christmas
Kwanzaa

Holiday:	When Is This Holiday Generally Celebrated?	How Is It Generally Celebrated?
Roots:	Evolution/Updates:	Evolution/Updates:
Connections:	Connections:	Connections/New Directions:
Details:	Details:	Details/Uncertainties:
Inferences/Values:	Inferences/Values:	Inferences/Values:
Source:	Source:	Source:

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Connections:	Connections:	Connections/New Directions:
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Inferences/Values:	Inferences/Values:	Inferences/Values:
Source:	Source:	Source:

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Holiday History – DAY TWO. Choose ONE of the Following Options:

(A) Choose TWO holidays you didn't do yesterday and complete one of the provided tables for each. Same guidelines, same priorities. *Since this is the "easy option," I'll expect your tables to be very good in order to receive full credit.* Due before your class on Monday (11/6/17).

(B) Choose ONE holiday you didn't do yesterday and create a Piktochart using <https://piktochart.com/>. This site is new to me, and while I've poked around on it I haven't actually used it yet. *That means that part of your assignment is to figure it out* (don't just turn helpless and ask me about it repeatedly, especially since I probably don't know) *and make it work*, while still trying to capture the sort of information you were required to look for yesterday. Share with me via email at dkoehn@concord.k12.in.us before your class on Tuesday (11/7/17).

(C) Choose ONE of the holidays you did yesterday (or one you didn't, if you prefer) and compose an informative article/blog post about it for online publication, using the information you found yesterday (although you're welcome to add to it if you see fit.) You will have to meet several basic guidelines to receive credit, but if you choose this option (and if your article/blog post is pretty good), it can replace TWO of the Short Answer questions on the Trimester Exam. In other words, instead of answering THREE Short Answer questions on the Trimester Exam, you'll respond to ONE of them – the other TWO will be replaced by this assignment.

Due the DAY BEFORE your Trimester Exam (Tuesday for 5th Hour, Wednesday for 2nd/3rd Hour, Thursday for 1st Hour). I need time to let you know if you should probably go ahead and answer all three of those Short Answer Questions on your Exam.

Requirements For The Article/Blog Post:

- 1200 – 1600 words. If that sounds like a lot, here are a few comparable articles you can look at to get a feel for the length –
 - <http://bluecereaeducation.net/blog/sargon-akkad-have-history> (1275 words)
 - <http://bluecereaeducation.net/blog/ten-truths-overwhelmed-student> (1540 words)
 - https://www.ancient.eu/Justinian_I/ (1425 words)
 - <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/why-indiana-people-called-hoosier> (1640 words)
- Your own words. Yes, you're using other sources for your information – but *don't write like them*, or worse, *copy them*.
- Good grammar, spelling, phrasing, etc. – and USE PARAGRAPHS! (You don't even have to indent – just skip a line for each new paragraph.)
- Share the information about your holiday – a decent intro (no need to overdo it), the history, the customs, etc. Keep in mind that this is for a World History class, so you're going to want to share information that makes it look like you know or have learned something about World History in the process.
- Don't worry so much about what I might think is WRONG (other than what I've already griped about above); think about how you could make your article/blog post GOOD. Organize it however you think best. Use some subheadings, add a picture or two, whatever. Submit by email as a Word Doc or Google Doc to dkoehn@concord.k12.in.us before class on the due date.
- THIS LAST PART IS KINDA IMPORTANT: These will be posted online and I'll be asking anyone foolish enough to follow me on Facebook or Twitter to read and critique a few of them. You may also be asked to critique a few of your peers'. I won't use your names – probably some combination of your hour and your initials. But they're going to be shared, so try to look like you've learned things and know how to write good and stuff.