

# JOY: HOW DOES YOUR FAMILY CELEBRATE?

SUGGESTED GRADE RANGE: K-12TH

Traditions from around the world share many things in common. Watch *joy*, a short film featuring five traditions celebrated in West Michigan, then explore their similarities and differences while making personal connections.

## MATERIALS

- Pencil and paper for writing down notes and reflections
- [joy film](#)
- [Graphic organizer](#)

## VOCABULARY

### Ritual:

1. A formal ceremony or series of acts that is always performed in the same way.
2. An act or series of acts done in a particular situation and in the same way each time.

## DIRECTIONS

[Watch the film joy](#), which highlights five holiday traditions celebrated in West Michigan. You can take notes on the [organizer](#) to record your thoughts. For each tradition highlighted in the video, list what you see, questions you have, and something you learned about the featured tradition.

Use the notes in your graphic organizer to help answer the questions below.

### Reflect or discuss with a friend or small group:

What did you see in the film that was similar to a tradition in your family?

What did you see that was different than the ways your family celebrates?

How does your family express joy during the holidays?

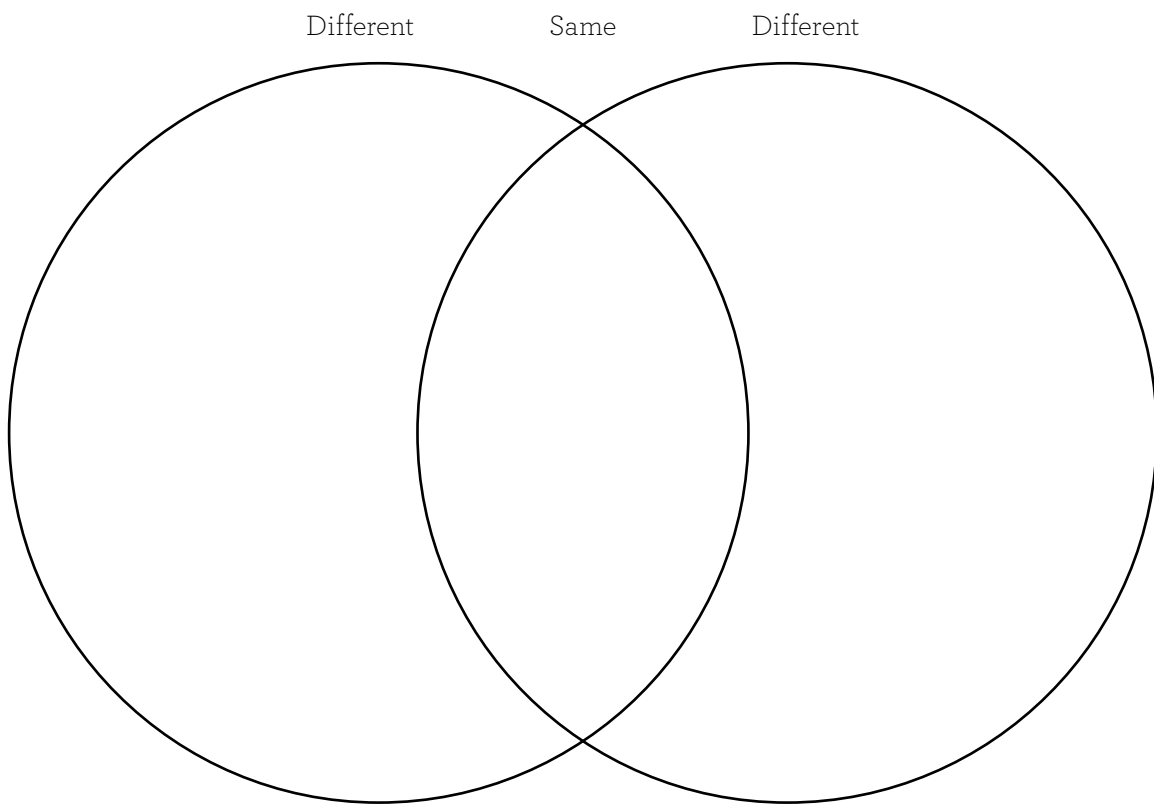
Traditions around the world have many things in common. Some common elements of traditions are listed below. Think of the traditions your family practices: Is there anything that is a part of your family's holiday traditions that isn't on this list? Add it!



Food	Music	Dancing	Gathering with Family	Decorations
Special Clothing	Games	Rituals	Prayer	Lights
Gift Giving				

How were the traditions you saw in the film the same or different? Choose two traditions from the film to compare and contrast. What did they have in common? How were they different?

Choose two traditions: Springerle, Sankta Lucia, Our Lady of Guadelupe, Hanukkah, Sinterklaas



## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

### **Compare and Contrast Traditions** (Social Studies, Language Arts, K-12)

Interview a friend or classmate about a holiday tradition they celebrate. Compare and contrast your friend's tradition with a tradition you celebrate at home. How are they similar? How are they different?

### **Become a Videographer** (Social Studies, Visual Arts, K-12)

Were you inspired by the *joy* film to highlight a tradition that you celebrate in your own home? Use a phone or camera to create your own video showcasing your tradition. Share your video with family, friends and/or classmates!

Definition from Learner's Dictionary: <https://learnersdictionary.com/definition/ritual>



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