

risc reading international solidarity centre enews

November 2006



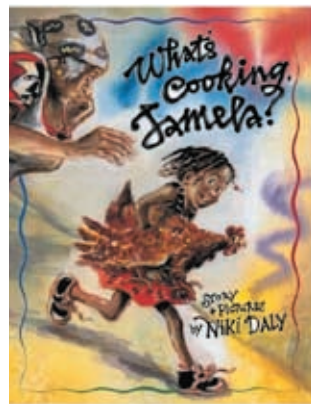
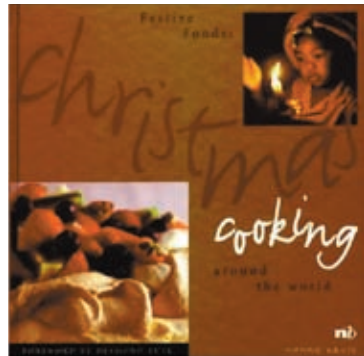
a termly bulletin for primary & secondary teachers, on recommended resources

Christmas is a huge focus in most schools, but how can we use Christmas to deliver Global Citizenship?

Christmas Around the World

Christmas is a global celebration, marked in lots of different ways all around the world. Here are some resources that will help you look at the similarities and differences between Christmas in the UK and in other countries.

- **An African Christmas** Ifeoma Onyefulu – A lovely photographic book about three children from a Nigerian village preparing for Christmas day and the presents and good food they will have.
- **The Miracle of the First Poinsettia, a Mexican Christmas Story** Joanne Oppenheim – This beautiful book explores the tale of how the first poinsettia came to be, through the eyes of a Mexican child.
- **Christmas Cooking Around the World** – A collection of traditional Christmas recipes such as rum cake from Barbados, and turkey in chocolate sauce from Mexico.
- **What's Cooking Jamela?** – Jamela's family, living in South Africa, end up having a vegetarian Christmas meal because Jamela has made friends with the chicken!
- Learn how to say Merry Christmas in hundreds of different languages: www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm



All of these books are available from the RISC Bookshop. There are many other books about Christmas, for a full list please email liz@risc.org.uk Official orders welcome.

A Sustainable Christmas

It is estimated that the ingredients for our Christmas dinner travel over 24,000 miles before they arrive on our tables! (source: *The Guardian*) Each year Christmas produces 3 million tonnes of waste, 1 billion Christmas cards could end up in the bin, 7.5 million Christmas trees and 83 square km of wrapping paper will be thrown away. Here are some ideas on how to have a more sustainable Christmas (source: www.wasteonline.org.uk).

- www.wasteonline.org.uk/resources/InformationSheets – contains articles on the impact of Christmas consumption, and tips and ideas on how to cut down on the things you throw away
- www.myfootprint.org – calculate your impact on the planet by working out your global footprint
- www.cat.org.uk/news/newslink.tmpl?subdir=news&command=search&db=../news/news.db&eqSKUdatarq=22360&start=1 – Centre for Alternative Technology's top ten tips for a green Christmas, from turning last year's cards into this year's gift tags, to buying living Christmas trees.
- **Making Christmas Decorations: Mini Workbooks Series** – create your own decorations from reclaimed materials found around the home.

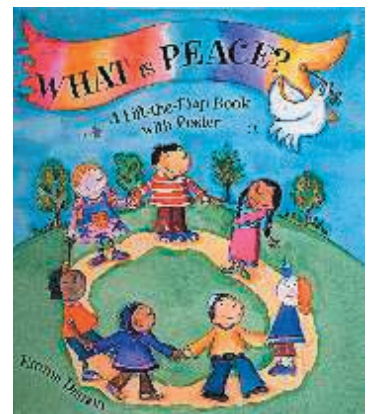


Other Ideas

Peace and Justice

Christmas is a time for family and for peace and goodwill. Use these resources to talk about peace and justice and explore human rights, interdependence and equality by finding out more about Fair Trade.

- **What is Peace?** Emma Damon – A lift the flap book with lovely illustrations that explains the concept of peace to young children.
- **Why?** Nikolai Popov – A picture only book that depicts the futility of fighting to resolve differences.



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- www.fairtrade.org.uk – The Fair Trade Foundation
- www.traidcraftshop.co.uk
- Consider a project that researches the different ingredients in a fair trade Christmas pudding, from flour and fruit to spices, and turn it into a geography project, or design a web page. (thanks to Jayne from SSMary+John)
- Don't forget that December 10th is Human Rights Day www.un.org/events/humanrights/2005/index.htm

New Years Resolutions

- Think of a New Year's resolution that will make a difference to someone else, with this free activity from Oxfam: www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/teachers/nyr/

Other winter festivals

Don't forget there are many other festivals at this time – the SHAP calendar has a full list of all festivals: www.shap.org
My Buddhist Faith Addicabandhu – Bodhi day is a Buddhist festival on 8 December.

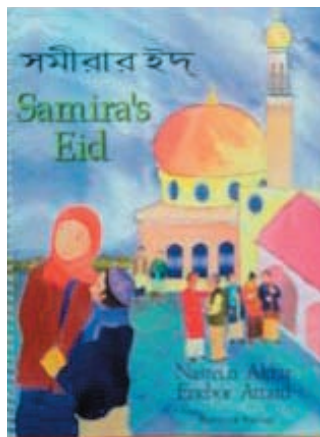
Eight Candles for Counting: a Chanukah Story Jonny Zucker – Chanukah (also spelt Hanukkah) is 16-23 December.

Shortest Day: celebrating the winter solstice Wendy Pfeffer – Yule is a pagan festival celebrated on the winter solstice, when the sun is at its greatest distance from the equator.

Divali Celebrations! Anita Ganeri – The Hindu festival of lights, which celebrates the return of Rama and Sita.

The Guru's Family: a story about Guru Nanak's Birthday Pratima Mitchell – The birthday of Guru Nanak falls in November and is a major celebration for Sikhs.

Samira's Eid Nasreen Aktar (dual language & a big book) – Eid-ul Fitr is a huge Muslim festival which marks the end of Ramadan and is often celebrated in November.



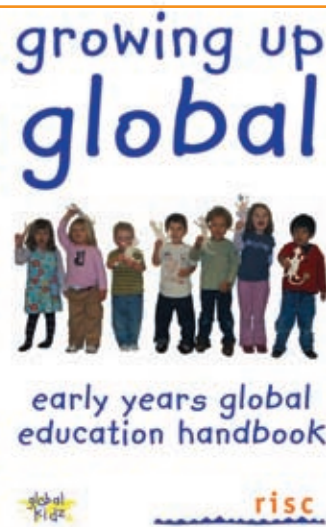
Other Ideas

- If you are going to mark the anniversary of the Tsunami then you might want to look at our previous enews bulletin: www.risc.org.uk/education/e-news_archive.html for free download.
- There is also an enews bulletin about the Band Aid song *Do They Know It's Christmas*.

Growing Up Global

RISC is publishing a brand new early years handbook to demonstrate how global education can be a thread running through learning and teaching right from the start. 12 exciting sections from *Me and My Family* to *Making a Story Tent* and *Surprises in South Africa*.

Due to be published in January, price £14.95, with a launch event on 29 January. More details about this or to book your place at the launch event, please email leslee@risc.org.uk.



Have you seen?

The new resource from Radford Primary School, Nottingham *Integrating Global and Anti-Racist Perspectives Within the Primary Curriculum*.

This is a comprehensive resource, designed by teachers for teachers, in a realistic, practical and detailed way, with easy to use ideas and help for integrating anti-racist and global education throughout the curriculum. We recommend it highly.

Events

November

6-10: Shout about Climate Change week Sponsored by Friends of the Earth to encourage young people to become active in environmental issues. www.foe.co.uk/learning/educators/shout_about/index.html

10: World Science Day for Peace and Development UNESCO event designed to strengthen public awareness of the contribution science can make to peaceful and sustainable societies. www.unesco.org/science/wsd_about.shtml

13-17: International Education Week An opportunity to celebrate the benefits of an international dimension in all levels of education. www.teachernet.gov.uk/educationoverview/Events/IEW/

20: Children's Rights Day Promotes worldwide understanding between children and activity promoting the welfare of the world's children. www.un.org/depts/dhl/children_day/

20-26: Islam Awareness Week Initiated by the Islamic Society of Britain to raise awareness and remove misconceptions surrounding Britain's 2nd largest faith group. www.iaw.org.uk; virtual classroom: www.isb.org.uk/virtual/newsite/project.htm

25: International Buy Nothing Day Exposes the environmental consequences of consumerism by asking us to switch off from shopping for a day and try simple living. www.buynothingday.co.uk

29: International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People On this day in 1947, the General Assembly adopted resolution 181, which came to be known as the Partition Resolution. www.un.org/depts/dhl/palestinian/index.html

December

1: World Aids Day Commemorates the millions of lives lost and forever changed by AIDS. www.worldaidsday.org/about.asp

1: Prisoners for Peace Day Supports conscientious objectors to war and military service. www.wri-irg.org/pubs/br68-en.htm

3: International Day of Disabled People Awareness of disability issues. www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/disiddp.htm

5: International Volunteer Day Contribution of volunteers to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals www.worldvolunteerweb.org/intl-volunteer-day/what-it-is.html

10: World Human Rights Day Marks the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. www.un.org/depts/dhl/humanrights/index.html

18: International Migrants Day Recognises the rights of migrants throughout the world. <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/refugees-migrantsday-eng>

20: International Human Solidarity Day A newly appointed day, which doesn't seem to have attracted much attention.

RISC has a very wide selection of teaching resources for all ages and curriculum areas as well as a selection of artefacts for loan, please email us your name and address for further information.