

## Engaged Learning Project

**Title of Project:** New Year's Around the World

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**Subject(s):** Social Studies/ELA

**Grade Level(s):** Kindergarten

### **Abstract:**

Kindergarten students are learning about national holidays, specifically New Year's Eve/Day, and how it is celebrated in the United States. Students are also learning about maps and globes, so they are tasked with learning more about New Years celebrations in other countries. My students will network with other students from around the world via Flip Grid Pals to ask them how they celebrate New Year's in their country. After connecting and researching, students will create an interactive map or website/blog to share their findings.

### **Learner Description/Context:**

Students in my class are predominantly African American, come from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and have not seen much outside of their "neighborhood". Students are able to broaden their horizons and learn about different cultures and places by posing questions to connected classrooms around the world via Flip Grid Pals. The teacher will help set up their Grid Pals class account and work to send invites to different classrooms; students can also be a part of this process! Students will then be encouraged to learn more about New Year's traditions from other countries by posing questions like "When is New Year in your country?" "What languages(s) do you speak?" "What traditions are common in your country, Or in your home, on this day?" on the class grid pal account. Students in my class can then start the conversation by sharing their answers to these questions using the class code and their google chrome tablets in the classroom so that the connected classes can see their responses too.

### **Time Frame:**

This project is expected to take two months to complete. This will give time if there are delays in connecting to other classes due to time changes. Students can work on this project for 1 hour a week – schedule allowing.

### **Standards Assessed:**

SSKH1: Identify the national holidays and describe the people and/or events celebrated.

h. New Year's Day

ELAGSEKW6: With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of tools to produce and publish writing, including digital tools in collaboration with peers.

ELAGSEKW7: With guidance and support, participate in shared research and writing projects.

### **Learner Objectives:**

#### **The "hook" or Introduction:**

During the project, students will become virtual pen pals with students across the globe; they will learn, discuss, and compare New Year's cultures and celebrations from many different countries with the help of Flip Grid: Grid Pals.

### **Process:**

During the first few weeks of the project, students will learn and research New Year's traditions in the United States with the help of their teacher. Students will then use the Flip Grid: Grip Pals Platform (set up by teachers beforehand with connected classrooms globally) to share their experiences with New Year's celebrations and traditions. Students will then be placed into small groups to reply to students from different countries (each small group is a different country). They will share what they learned about said country's New Year's traditions by drawing and dictating to the teacher. The groups can respond to the flip grids on their google chrome tablets and ask clarifying questions to their global peers! The teacher can help keep ideas organized by writing information down on chart paper for the groups. The last month of the project will be when the students bring all of their shared ideas together to create a digital interactive map.

### **Product:**

Students will work together, with the help of the teacher, to create an interactive map online to show the countries & traditions they learned about. Students are able to share the map with the classes they worked with in other countries, other classes in our school/community, and with family and friends. [Mural](#) is a digital workspace for visual collaboration (This is how we will create an interactive map where, when finished, students can click on the pins and learn about the different traditions and cultural events.) Students will use google chrome tablets to record and review video responses on FlipGrid Grid Pals class account. They will also use their tablets to help input information on the map with the help of dictation tools.

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### Technology Use:

- Flip Grid: Grid Pals will be used to communicate with peers
- Google Chrome Tablets will be used to create the videos on Flip Grid as well as input data on [Mural](#) (digital interactive map)
- [Mural](#) is a digital workspace for visual collaboration (This is how we will create an interactive map where, when finished, students can click on the pins and learn about the different traditions and cultural events.) (Publish original products)
- References and supporting materials include other online resources that will be used.

The technology listed above allows for the students to be the facilitators in their own learning, it also allows for collaboration, a meaningful, challenging learning experience, and is standards-based.

### References and Supporting Material:

- Anchor chart paper & writing tools
- [Social Studies Weekly \(for research and learning\)](#)
- [PBS Learning Media](#)
- [GetEPIC! Books](#)

Mural template: [Mural](#)