

CREATE A NEW AMERICAN HOLIDAY



Time: approximately 120 minutes (can be divided into blocks of time)

Instructional Goals:

- The student will use the PebbleGo online database to research current American holidays.
- The student will use nonfiction books, including table of contents, index, and glossary, to research current American holidays.
- The student will navigate an online database to locate needed information.
- The student will use a problem-solving process to complete an assignment.
- The student will take research notes on American holidays and use those notes to create a new holiday.
- The student will be introduced to the term bibliography and the importance of giving credit to a source during research.

Materials/Resources:

- PebbleGo online database
- National Holidays series—Pebble imprint
- American Holidays Research Chart (copied back-to-back, one for each student)
- A New American Holiday brainstorming page (optional)

Procedures/Lesson Activities:

Focus

1. Tell the class they will create a new American holiday. Discuss the types of details they will need to determine when creating a new holiday:
 - › Date to celebrate
 - › Person or event to celebrate or honor
 - › Things to do for the celebration
2. Explain that their new holiday must be completely different from other American holidays we already celebrate. Brainstorm a list of current American holidays, such as Columbus Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, etc.
3. Tell students that to insure the new holidays are completely different from the ones we already have, they will need to research the details for our current American holidays. Each student/pair will research and take notes on several current American holidays.
4. Walk students through the entire project using a problem-solving process, which should include steps 5 and 6 below.



5. Brainstorm information the students need to know about each current holiday, focusing on using the “question words” who, what, where, when, why, and how. Students might brainstorm research questions such as:
 - › When is the holiday celebrated?
 - › How do people celebrate this holiday?
 - › Who or what does this holiday celebrate or honor?
 - › Why does America have this holiday?
 - › Where in our community do we celebrate this holiday?
6. Brainstorm a list of possible information sources students could use to find the answers to their research questions. PebbleGo and the National Holidays Pebble series are two information sources students will use for their research.

Teach/Model

7. Walk students through the process of accessing the PebbleGo online database.
8. Show students how subject directory searching works by navigating through the subject directory pictures in PebbleGo. Show students keyword searching by using the Search box at the top of the screen. Use the holidays from the class brainstorming list of American holidays as examples.
9. Demonstrate the read aloud function by clicking on the appropriate button and listening to the text being read aloud.
10. Show students the tabs at the top of the screen that allow them to scroll through the information. Highlight the information in the glossary of each article. Demonstrate how students can use the buttons to watch videos.
11. Show the students how they can look through the different pictures of a holiday. Show students how to choose a picture and print it out.
12. Demonstrate using a nonfiction book as a research source, pointing out the table of contents, glossary, and index. (The National Holidays Pebble series has these features.)
13. Explain to students that they will be taking notes from the information in PebbleGo and in the nonfiction books.

Guided Practice

14. Show students the American Holidays Research Chart. Demonstrate how students should take their notes, emphasizing they do not need to write complete sentences in their notes.
15. Explain to students why it is important to give credit to their research sources. They will need to cite their sources in their research notes. Show them the “Cite This Source” button for PebbleGo. Show them how to cite a book for the bibliography.
16. Explain that students will each research the American Holidays in PebbleGo and nonfiction books.

Independent Practice



17. Have students work independently or with a partner to complete their research notes using PebbleGo and nonfiction books about American holidays.
18. Monitor student progress as they work to complete their research notes.
19. When their notes are complete, students can share their information by completing a class chart of American holidays on butcher paper or by giving an oral report on their American holiday.

Closure

20. Students create a new American holiday, making sure to avoid the dates, celebrations, honorees, etc., already a part of current American holidays. Students will need to refer to their notes and/or the class chart of American holidays while brainstorming their new holidays. Students may use the A New American Holiday brainstorming page to guide them.

Extend/Enrich

- Students may create advertisements announcing their new holidays.
- Students vote on a new holiday to celebrate as a class. They may plan and organize the celebration on or near the celebration date.

Name: _____



A New American Holiday

Brainstorm a new American holiday. Use your research notes about current American holidays to make sure you do not plan your holiday to be the same as one we already celebrate.

New Holiday Name:

Date To Celebrate:

Who or What We Will Celebrate/Honor:

Why We Should Celebrate:

How We Will Celebrate:

Write any other important information about this holiday on the back of your paper.

Name: _____



American Holidays Research Chart

Choose 3 American holidays to research using PebbleGo and nonfiction books.

American Holiday	When is it celebrated?	Why do we celebrate it?	How do we celebrate it?

Name: _____



American Holidays Research

Write another interesting fact about one of the American holidays you researched.

Choose one American holiday picture in **PebbleGo**. Print it out and staple it to your notes.

Bibliography
