

STUDY GUIDE

The Magic Snowflake!

About the Show

A blizzard is on the way, and in the neighborhood of Merryville, USA, school is cancelled! Best friends, Sarah, Jenny and Joe are going to have the greatest snow day ever as they get ready for Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanza. But mean Mr. Gilroy Gallagher, who is stuck in town because of the storm, will stop at nothing to put a damper on everyone else's holiday cheer. Add the magic of the first snowflake of the season and the result is an amazing holiday adventure with the most peculiar guest ever to arrive in Merryville!

Filled with music, sing-a-longs and fast-paced fun, The Magic Snowflake celebrates our cultural holiday differences but more importantly, our similarities.

PRE PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES

Discussion Questions before the show

1. Discuss going to a live performance at a theatre. Have you ever been to a live show before? How is it different from watching TV?
2. What is the difference between the actors you see in a TV show and the actors you see on stage?
3. How should you behave in the audience during the show?

Sing-a-longs!

Get ready to sing-a-long by practicing the following holiday songs!

Jingle Bells

The Hanukkah Song

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Up On the Housetop

The Dreidle Song

This Little Light of Mine

Vocabulary Words

(Choose the appropriate vocabulary words and activities for your class.)

*Read the words.

*Make sentences using as many of the Vocab words as you can.

*Have a Spelling Bee with the words.

Snow	School	Shape
Flake	Christmas	Size
Magic	Kwanza	Color
Sky	Hanukkah	Same
Good	Coconut	Talk
Radio	Kugel	Say
Past	Sure	Laugh
Big	No	Fine
Hot	Yes	Light
Blizzard	Science	Noise
Play	Math	Look
Fun	Fly	Up
Cheer	Float	Hang
Neighbor	Go	Ice
Cancel	Not	Blue
Air	Glow	White
Temperature	Blow	Nice
Water	Why	Sun
Vapor	My	Crazy
Cloud	Ride	Trick
Party	Geek	Year
People	Team	Happy
Holiday	If	Birthday
Get	Ready	Today

About Hanukkah, Kwanza and Christmas

Kwanza is a relatively new African-American celebration, but it is based on ancient African festivals and customs. Maulana Karenga established the celebration of Kwanza in 1966. The word Kwanza comes from the Swahili phrase, “Matunda Ya Kwanzaa” which means “First Fruits.” An extra “a” is added to the end of Kwanzaa so the word would have seven letters to go with the seven principles of the holiday. The seven principles of Kwanza are: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (self determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), Imani (Faith). Each day a candle representing a symbol is lit, and one of the seven principles is discussed. Kwanzaa is a time to rejoice. It is a time for families and friends to come together and celebrate their heritage through stories songs and lots of good food!

Hanukkah is a celebration of a miracle that took place more than two thousand years ago. A powerful ruler named Antiochus IV held the Jews prisoners in their own land for three years. Antiochus brought a huge army from Syria to destroy the Jewish religion and force the Jews to worship Greek Gods. He took over Jerusalem and ruined the Holy Temple. The Jews were greatly outnumbered. But a great man named Judah Maccabee and his four brothers led a small brave army against the Syrian forces. The Maccabees used their brains to fight the troops of Antiochus. They built a fake camp and hid away from it during the night. When the enemy came to attack the camp, the Jewish soldiers sneaked in from behind and defeated them. Judah Maccabee and his troupes won back the city of Jerusalem and freed the Jews, but the temple had been badly damaged. The Maccabees cleaned up the temple and made it pure again. They had to light a special Menorah; a seven branched oil lamp that was supposed to remain lit all the time. There was only enough oil left to burn in the Menorah for one day, but somehow it lasted for eight days, just long enough for a new supply to be made. The Temple was Rededicated or made holy again. Judah Maccabee the day a holiday. Hanukkah is the Hebrew word for “rededication.” The eight days of Hanukkah honor the eight days during which the oil burned in the holy lamp. A special eight-branched menorah (with one branch in the middle for the Shamish) contains the candles. One is lit each night to celebrate. The special Menorah is called a Hanukkiyah. The Hanukkah celebration

is filled with music, gift giving, dreidle playing, story telling and of course, lots of good food!

Christmas is a religious holiday that occurs every year on December 25th when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who is believed to be the Savior of the world. In preparation for Christmas, four weeks in advance, an Advent Wreath with five candles, 3 purple, 1 pink and one white are prepared. One purple candle is lit each day of the first week, two the second week, the pink candle is added the third week and the remaining purple candle is lit during the fourth week. On Christmas Day the white candle is placed in the center of the Advent Wreath and is lit to celebrate the birth of Christ. In anticipation of Christmas, children await the arrival of Santa Claus who leaves presents under the Christmas tree. Christmas is a holy day of joy, thanks and prayer and is filled with gift giving, music, stories, family and friends and of course, lots of good food!

Discussion Questions

1. How do you celebrate the holidays?
2. What are some of your family's traditions?
3. What is your favorite part of the holidays?
4. Do you have a favorite holiday food?
5. What are some

POST PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES

Discussion Questions

1. Name the characters in the show. *Miss Patty Pockets, Sarah, Jamie, Joe, Mr. Gilroy Gallagher, UPS Man and kids from the neighborhood.*
2. What is the thing that Mr. Gallagher doesn't like? *Snow.*
3. How does Francis the Snowflake stop the snowstorm? *With an invention to stop the snow.*
4. Why does Francis the Snowflake fall to Earth? *She loses her balance.*

5. What is the name of Francis' invention? *Electromagnetic Pulse Machine.*
6. Why is school cancelled? Because of the coming blizzard.
7. Why does Miss Pockets decide to have a holiday party?
Because Sarah, Jamie and Joe have made a lot of holiday food that was supposed to be for school party... but school is cancelled.
8. What are the holiday foods that Sarah, Jamie and Joe each bring to the party? *Christmas cookies, Coconut Cake and Kugle.*
9. How is Francis the Snowflake supposed to use her magic?
For Holiday Goodness.
10. What special day is it for Mr. Gallagher? *His Birthday.*

Holiday Crafts and Activities

Make paper Snowflakes!

1. Begin with a square piece of paper.
2. Fold it in half to create a large triangle.
3. Fold it in half again to make a smaller triangle.
4. Cut a variety of shapes into the sides of the triangle.
5. Open up the cut triangle and you will have a square paper snowflake.

The possibilities are endless!

Make a dreidle and play the dreidle game!

<https://www.geniusavenue.com/includes/GroupDocuments/MemberCompanySignup/Make%20Your%20Own%20Clay%20Dreidel.pdf>

Make a Kwanzaa Pasta necklace!

<https://www.familyeducation.com/fun/kwanzaa/kwanzaa-pasta-necklace>

Make a Christmas Star in one snip!

<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagstar.html>

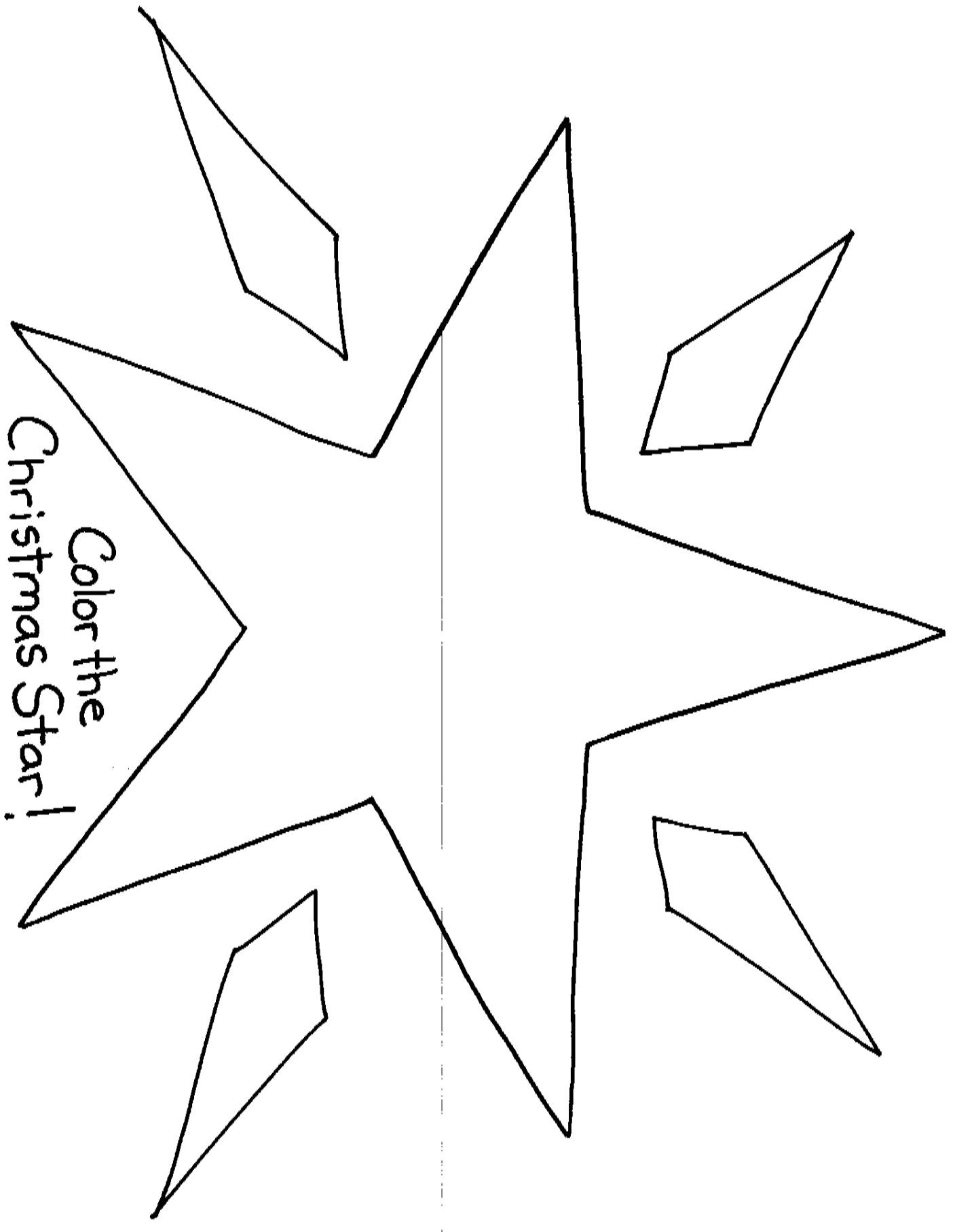
FUN PAGES! Have fun coloring the fun pages!

Color the Christmas Star!

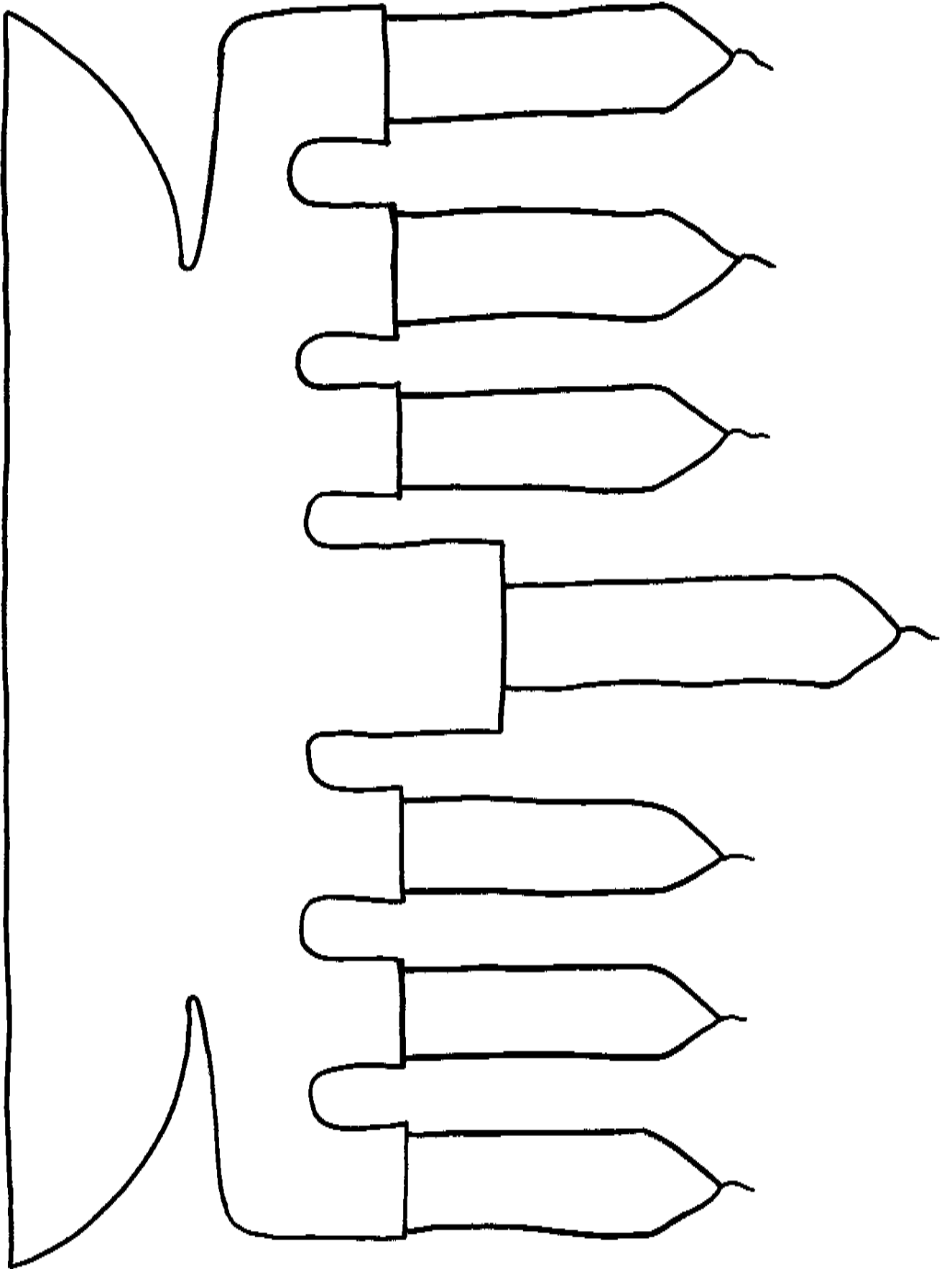
Color the Hanukkah Dreidle!

Color the Kwanzaa Kinara!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Color the
Christmas Star!



Color the Kwanzaa Kinara!

Dreidel Rhyme

J. Patrick Lewis

Dreidel, dreidel, what's to eat?
Show me something *very* sweet!

Put one candy in the middle,
Spin the dreidel just a little—

If the dreidel comes up *shin* ש
Put one piece of candy in.

If it's half—the letter *hey* ה—
Take one half the pot away.

If the *gimel* ג should appear,
You win everything, my dear!

But if *nun* נ should show its face,
Someone else spins in your place.

Now before we spin again,
Put another candy in.

Dreidel, dreidel, what's to eat?
Show me something *very* sweet!

