

Lesson Plans A La Mode



December 15 is Bill of Rights Day. Review the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution and discuss the rights that they guarantee to Americans. Then find newspaper pictures showing each of these rights in practice, either being upheld or violated. Label each with the appropriate amendment and display in a binder or on a posterboard. Add a sentence or two explaining why you selected each particular picture.



December contains the birthdays of two men whose names now grace two well-known public buildings: Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, who designed the Eiffel Tower and Fiorello La Guardia, mayor of New York City, who gave his name to the airport in Queens. Look through the local section and find two buildings named after famous citizens. Do some research to discover the stories of the people behind the names.



Clip newspaper recipes for your favorite holiday treats and put them into a binder. Organize a family day to help prepare some of these goodies for your holiday feast. Make a list of ingredients and study the newspaper ads to find the best prices for each, noting the price and store beside each item. Then calculate the amount of ingredients and money that you will need. Finally, make up a shopping list, using a map to determine the most efficient route.



December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. Collect articles and statistics on the destructive effects of driving while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Contact Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and other organizations for more information. Consult science texts and draw a diagram to illustrate what happens when drugs interact with the brain. Design a poster to persuade people to stay sober.



National Learning Standards Addressed: Language Arts #8 Use of a variety of technological and information resources ... to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge. (National Council of Teachers of English/International Reading Association List of Standards for the English Language Arts, 1996.) Science/Technology Levels K-12 Personal and community health. Structure and function in living systems. (National Academy Press, National Science Education Standards, 1996.) Math #1 Numbers and Operations. #4 Measurement. #9 Connections. (Principles and Standards for School Mathematics, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Discussion Draft, 1998.) Social Studies Strand VI Power, authority and governance. Strand X Civic ideals and practices. (Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, National Council for the Social Studies, 1999.) Also: Geography Standard #1 Using maps and other geographic representations ... to acquire, process and report information from a spatial perspective. (Geography Education Standards Project, 1994)