**Unit 7B  
Character & Conflict**

***A Raisin in the Sun***

**LESSON 7**

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# Teacher Edition: Conversation & Collaboration

## Lesson 7: Build Background

Lesson Notes:

The Conversation & Collaboration lessons focus on language acquisition. They include opportunities for students to practice speaking English through a variety of activities. The Teacher Edition provides suggestions for ways in which students might practice speaking English while working independently.



Students can complete the speaking, listening, and presenting activities in a variety of ways, depending on access to technology:

No tech: Students can write their answers and then speak with someone at home or with a friend.

Wi-Fi access: If students can access Wi-Fi, they can use an online app such as Vocaroo to record themselves or Screencastify to make a presentation and email it to you.

Smartphone access: Students can record audio or make a video presentation and email it to you.

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Description automatically generatedThis lesson includes opportunities for collaboration. If students have access to the necessary technology, they can complete all activities in this lesson with an assigned partner. Paired students should each fill out all sections of the lesson as they work with their partner.

If you are assigning partners, students should be paired with another student at least one proficiency level higher or lower than them (e.g., Emerging with Expanding; Expanding with Bridging, etc.), if possible.

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Description automatically generatedThis lesson offers speaking opportunities. Inform students in advance if they will use technology to complete these activities.

Tips for Newcomers: Newcomers may be unfamiliar with US holidays and traditions. Having students talk about the traditions they know builds background for learning about new holidays and traditions. If you discuss US holidays with students, explain the roots, history, and traditions, including foods, symbols, music, as well as the origins. For example: patriotic (e.g., Fourth of July), religious (e.g., Christmas), or secular (e.g., New Year’s Day).

This is the end of the Teacher Lesson Notes. Please print the Student Edition starting on the next page.

# Student Edition: Conversation & Collaboration

## Lesson 7: Build Background

**In this lesson, you will...**

* research the traditions and celebrations of two US holidays.
* present information about these two holidays.

People come together for celebrations and share in their traditions and beliefs. In this lesson, you will think about how you celebrate special occasions and learn about American holidays.

### Materials:

Bilingual dictionary

Calendar for the current year

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| **A picture containing mirror  Description automatically generatedIcons**  **A close up of a logo  Description automatically generatedSpeaking activity**  **Pair activity**  **Wi-Fi and a Tablet, Computer, or Smartphone**  **A picture containing knife, drawing  Description automatically generated­Ideas**  **Vocabulary** |

**A picture containing knife, drawing

Description automatically generated**

**Vocabulary:** For this lesson, you will use and discuss words about celebrations. Many of these words are cognates. Cognates are words that have similar spellings and meanings in different languages. Review these English words and their cognates in Spanish. If you speak a language other than Spanish, highlight the English words that have cognates in your language.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| English words ending in –tion | Spanish words ending in –ción |
| generation | generación |
| celebration | celebración |
| tradition | tradición |
| decoration | decoración |
| emotion | emoción |
| ornamentation | ornamentación |

A close up of a logo

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Description automatically generated Warm-Up: Celebrating birthdays



1. Talk about it. Tell someone how your family usually celebrates birthdays. Use the writing box and sentence frames to plan your speaking.

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|  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Emerging** | We celebrate our birthdays by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| Expanding | In my family, a birthday celebration includes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. My favorite part of a birthday celebration is \_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| Bridging | In my family, we traditionally celebrate birthdays by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  An especially important birthday for children in our family is when we turn \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years old. On this special day, we usually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |

1. Listen carefully to a partner’s response. In the writing box below, explain how they usually celebrate birthdays.

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|  |

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Description automatically generated Activity 1: **Share and discuss celebrations and holidays**



Families have special traditions and celebrations. Some celebrations are religious. Some are specific to a culture, community, or family. In this activity, you will learn about different American holidays and how they are celebrated in the United States.

1. Brainstorm. List different traditions and holidays that you celebrate in the writing box.

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| --- |
|  |

1. Read the list of American holidays. Place a star next to the holidays you know something about.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Labor Day | Columbus Day | Halloween | Veterans’ Day |
| Thanksgiving | Christmas | New Year’s Day | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day |
| Groundhog Day | Presidents’ Day | Hanukkah | St. Patrick’s Day |
| Easter | Cinco de Mayo | Mother’s Day | Memorial Day |
| Flag Day | Father’s Day | Fourth of July | Passover |
| Kwanzaa | Eid al-Fitr | Lunar New Year | Diwali |

1. Use a calendar to find the day and date for five of the holidays listed above. Write the information below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Holiday | Day and Date |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |
| 4. |  |
| 5. |  |

1. Select two holidays to learn more about. You will complete a chart with information about each holiday. Review the example chart and vocabulary. Discuss additional new words with a partner or use a dictionary to understand their meaning.

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**Vocabulary:** Definitions

**federal**: related to the government

**patriotic**: having love for a person’s country

**parade**: a celebration that includes groups of people moving down a street by marching or riding in cars or on decorated wagons or floats

**religious**: part of a religion, belief in a god or gods

**secular**: not part of a religion

**Example:**

|  |
| --- |
| Holiday: Veterans’ Day |
| Day or date of the holiday: November 11th  Type of holiday:   * Patriotic * Secular * Religious * School holiday * State/Federal holiday   Special foods: There aren’t special foods for this day.  Traditions or practices:   * Parades * Gifts * Special meals * Worship * Greeting cards * Other – Some churches have special services to honor veterans. Many people put the American flag outside their homes.   Symbols: The American flag and the red poppy (flower) are special symbols on Veterans’ Day. |

1. Research the two holidays you selected. You can find information on the Internet or from library resources, or interview someone to find information. Complete a chart for each holiday.

|  |
| --- |
| Holiday #1: |
| Day or date of the holiday:  Type of holiday:   * Patriotic * Secular * Religious * School holiday * State/Federal holiday   Special foods:  Traditions or practices:   * Parades * Gifts * Special meals * Worship * Greeting cards * Other –   Symbols: |

|  |
| --- |
| Holiday #2: |
| Day or date of the holiday:  Type of holiday:   * Patriotic * Secular * Religious * School holiday * State/Federal holiday   Special foods:  Traditions or practices:   * Parades * Gifts * Special meals * Worship * Greeting cards * Other   Symbols: |

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Description automatically generated Activity 2: **Present holidays**

Talk about it. Present the information that you learned about two American holidays. Use your completed Holiday #1 and Holiday #2 charts and the sentence frames to guide your speaking.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Emerging** | One of the holidays I learned about is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Something I learned about this holiday is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| Expanding | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a holiday that occurs in the month of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. On this holiday, people usually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| Bridging | One of the holidays that I researched is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. A symbol associated with this holiday is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. People celebrate this holiday by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |

Wrap-Up

Today you...

discussed birthday celebrations in your family.

learned about some traditions and celebrations in the United States.

shared the information you learned with someone.