I Love America 1700s—Let Freedom Ring

December Lessons



Parent / Teacher Manual

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I Love America 1700s
"Let Freedom Ring"
DECEMBER LESSONS

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I Love America 1700s -- December

LESSON #1
Making a December Calendar

SUBJECT OF THIS LESSON: December calendar, with symbols to emphasize the true meaning of Christmas.

Items Needed:

- ☐ Calendar Pictures for each student (in student packets)
- ☐ December Calendar (in student packets)
- ☐ Optional: Sheet protector for the calendar
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue-stick
- ☐ Small Markers or colored pencils
- ☐ Small envelope (to hold cut out calendar pictures)
- ☐ A December calendar for reference

LESSON: It's a new month! The best month of the year for lots of celebrating and anticipation. Invite the students to open their activity book and find the December calendar. This one is different from the others they've done, and the small pictures will remind them of the true meaning of Christmas as they count down the days.

ACTIVITY: Make December calendars, using the pattern provided. Review the instructions to carefully color the small pictures with small-tipped markers or colored pencils. Then cut out the pictures and keep them in an envelope. Each day of December they can glue on one of the little colored pictures and watch the days go by until Christmas!

Optional: Have the students put their calendars in a sheet protector, with the envelope tucked in the back. They can put a heavy piece of cardboard inside the sheet protector and attach string or yarn to the back for hanging the calendar on the wall. Each day during December they will paste a new colored square on the calendar.

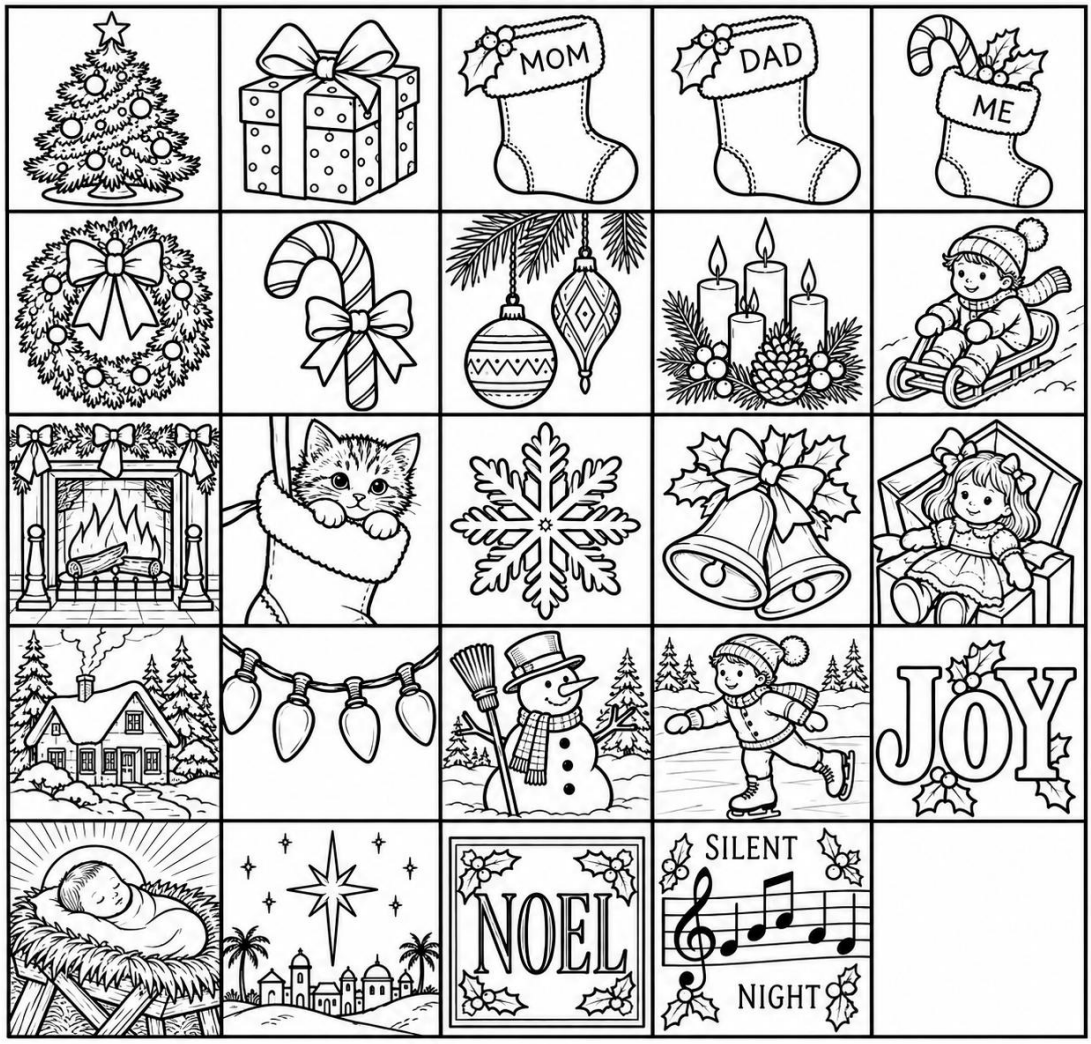
While the students color and create their calendars, you may wish to play songs of the season to add to the Christmas atmosphere.

December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Countdown Calendar Pictures



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Paste the calendar (previous page) on a piece of stiff cardboard, like cardstock. On the back of the cardboard glue an envelope to hold the small drawings on this page.
2. Color the little pictures with felt-tip markers or colored pencils. Cut them out and store them in the envelope.
3. Choose a place where you can hang or display your calendar to update it every day.
4. Choose one of the little pictures from the envelope and paste it onto the calendar day that is December 1.
5. Each day, choose and paste another picture onto the calendar day. When you have 24 pictures on your calendar it will be Christmas Eve!

NOTES

I Love America 1700s -- December

LESSON #2
Freedom of Religion
Understanding the Muslim Religion

SUBJECTS OF THIS LESSON: Freedom of religion and the celebrations of the Muslim religion during December.

Items Needed:

- ☐ Pictures of Muslims
- ☐ Symbols of the Muslim religion
- ☐ Map of the Middle East

INTRODUCTION: The subject of the December lessons centers around the right of all people to worship God the way they choose, as stated in the LDS Eleventh Article of Faith. It will be important to impress upon the minds of the students that they should be tolerant and understanding of other peoples' religions, and that everyone has the right to worship God according to their own conscience.

It is important, however, that the students continue to increase their own testimonies of Jesus Christ while they are studying other religions. The basis for an increased testimony is found in words of the prophets. A constant comparison of God's revealed word and the beliefs of other religions will anchor them to the truth. You will note that LDS references are quoted frequently for LDS students, so they can continue to build their testimonies.

Three major religions will be discussed during December: Islam (the Moslems), Judaism (the Jews), and Christianity (Christians). This week, the basic religious beliefs of Islam will be presented.

LESSON: Tell the students that all during December, you will be teaching about **Freedom of Religion**.

Ask: What is meant by the word "religion?" (A person's religion could be defined as one's own *beliefs about God and the purpose of life*.)

During December we will be discussing three main religions:

1. The Arab religion (Islam) and the religious beliefs of Muhammad. (Their December holiday is called Ramadan). Muslims call the Creator (God) "Allah."

2. The Jewish religion (Their December holiday is called Hanukkah) The Jews call the Creator "Jehovah" and they look forward to the coming of a "Messiah."

3. The Christian beliefs (Everyone knows the December holiday is Christmas.) Christians worship the Lord Jesus and His Father -- God or "Heavenly Father."

Summary: Explain that in America we are very blessed to be free to worship God according to the way we desire. People

even have the right to NOT believe in God. There are so many different religions! Hundreds of thousands of people came to America for the very reason that they wanted to worship freely. The Pilgrims that we just studied about in November are a good example of people who sacrificed for the freedom to worship God in their own way.

About 100 years after the Pilgrims came to the New World to worship freely, the people in the United States approved laws protecting the right of religious worship. The very first sentence listed in the Bill of Rights is our right to have Freedom of Religion. That is our most important right! Tell the class that you will be discussing more details about this Constitutional right later on in the year.

Ask: How many of you know someone who belongs to a different religion than your own? *(Later they may have a chance to share experiences they've had with their friends of other religions.)*

(For Latter-day Saint Students Ask: Do you remember the eleventh Article of Faith? Will you repeat it with me?)

"We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may."

You may wish to take time to memorize it.

Ask: Do you know what this statement means? *(Everybody has a right to practice whatever religion they want to believe in.)*

Ask: What does the word "Worship" mean? *(To honor and show devotion to God – to practice becoming like the thing/person you worship.)*

Invite the students to turn to the poem in their workbooks, "Freedom of Worship." Ask a student to read this poem, or have the students follow along as you read.

Freedom of Worship

Some people worship in chapels,
Some pray in beautiful halls;
Some people worship in synagogues,
Some do not worship at all.

Some people worship in Mosques,
Some go to Church all alone;
Some people pray to a cross,
Some bow and kneel to a stone.

Some people think other people's
Worshiping ways are quite odd--
And thinking some churches are "wrong"
They forget we're all children of God.