

Sustainable Celebrations

Overview

Explore ways to celebrate with a lower environmental footprint. Create decorations, cards, or gifts using reused or recycled materials, and reflect on what truly makes celebrations meaningful.

Learning outcomes

- Identify the environmental impacts of celebrations.
- Design creative, low-impact alternatives for decorations, gifts, or practices.
- Reflect on what makes celebrations meaningful beyond material items.

Proof to submit

Examples of student-created decorations, cards or gifts.

Activity

Grades K to 6

Students make decorations, cards, or gifts from reused or recycled materials. They then reflect as a group on how these items still make a celebration feel special (sometimes even more so!).

Grades 7 to 12

Students research the environmental impact of common celebration practices, such as decorations, packaging, energy use, and food. They design an alternative celebration plan that reduces waste and resource use (e.g., using reused or recycled decorations, digital invitations, plant-rich meals, or thoughtfully repurposed gifts). Students share their ideas and reflect on how their choices maintain the enjoyment of celebrations while minimizing environmental impact.

Accessibility: Students can also create a concept drawing or digital design if materials are limited. They can explore a school, community, seasonal, family, or other celebration rather than a personal or cultural celebration.

Curriculum Connections

- Arts Education: Design, visual arts, creative expression
- Science: Materials, waste, environmental impacts
- Social Studies: Celebrations, communities, consumption
- Mathematics: Measuring, comparing and analyzing waste or resource use

Materials

- Reused or recycled craft supplies, or digital design tools



Live Net Zero Classroom Challenge
How We Celebrate and Play

Sustainable Celebrations

Resources for teachers

Visit the [Live Net Zero Classroom Challenge website](#) for additional resources and information.

Discussion prompts for students

- Which aspects of your celebration create the most waste?
- What items can be reused, repurposed, or replaced with lower-impact options?
- How can a celebration stay meaningful while reducing environmental impact?