



December 2020

December Holidays

- *Saint Nicholas Day*
- *Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe*
- *St. Lucia Day*
- *Hanukkah*
- *Christmas Day*
- *Three Kings Day/Epiphany*
- *Boxing Day*
- *Kwanzaa*
- *Omisoka*
- *Yule*
- *Saturnalia*
- *Diwali*
- *Winter Solstice*

What it's About:

This edition of The Crux looks a little different than past editions – normally, we share and review one resource, highlighting the most important points and offering reflection questions. This month, we're giving you an opportunity to do some self-guided learning. We've provided a list of 13 December holidays celebrated by many who live in the United States, and who may well represent groups who live near you.

Why it's Important:

Each of us has a different experience with holiday traditions – or lack thereof – that we've been shaped by. There are often core values and practices passed down generationally, as well as cultural norms or traditions. You likely have friends, relatives, neighbors, and brothers who are celebrating this month differently than you; as with other social identities, a lack of understanding others' beliefs can have real-world consequences such as intolerance, discrimination, and hate.



When we understand the traditions of those around us and the deeper meanings behind why these traditions exist, we grow a greater capacity to promote respect, love, dignity, and togetherness.

Reflect & Discuss:

What is the value of understanding how other cultures/populations celebrate holidays?

What religious holidays below are you already aware of? Which on the list are you unaware of? Pick at least one to research - focus on the central tenants of the selected holiday and what makes it meaningful for those who celebrate.

Take the time to ask those around you about their December traditions, if any, and what those traditions mean to each person. Whether they're the same holidays as the ones you celebrate, or not, this can be a powerful insight into the moments that have shaped the people you interact with every day.

Want to learn more? This list is not exhaustive. If you celebrate a different holiday or find that your friend, brother, or neighbor celebrates something different, let us know what it is so we can include it in the future!