



Holiday Brunch Homeschool Lesson Plan

Raddish Lesson Plan Road Map

We design these lessons to be adaptable and flexible to your students and your life. You can do A Little Taste in ~45 minutes, or you can use the extension activities and make the projects and activities listed last over several lessons or even weeks. The lessons are meant to be interdisciplinary, covering many subject areas at once. Students of all ages can use these materials, with learners who are pre-writers able to draw or verbally share responses.

If desired, you could extend these lessons into a project-based learning unit of study, where students tackle a real world problem and create solutions. The learning happens in the process of getting to the presentation of the solution, and students often find it more meaningful when they are investigating a topic of their choice.

For a deeper look at the topic, A Big Bite offers extension ideas for learners who are able to read, write, and think on a higher level.

We always love to see your finished projects! You can share them in our Facebook group, [The Raddish Table](#), or email us hello@raddishkids.com.

Driving Questions: What is a fairy tale, and what is its purpose? How do stories change based on who is telling them?

A Little Taste

Resource List

Background Information (also linked within lesson)

- *Hansel and Gretel Stories Around the World: 4 Beloved Tales*, picture book by Cari Meister, [https://bookshop.org/books/hansel-and-gretel-stories-around-the-world-4-beloved-
tales/9781515804154](https://bookshop.org/books/hansel-and-gretel-stories-around-the-world-4-beloved-tales/9781515804154)
- “Britannica’s Tales Around the World Hansel and Gretel”, video from Jameel Ali, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZxCEaT0k4w>
- “Grimm Brothers”, encyclopedia entry from Britannica Kids, <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Grimm-Brothers/353216>
- Brothers Grimm - Famous Authors, video by Wiki Videos by Kinedio, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocDjLAgE32E>
- “A brief history of the gingerbread house”, article from The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2018/dec/22/a-brief-history-of-the-gingerbread-house>
- “The Medieval History of the Gingerbread Man”, video from Food Origins, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liw-rHhUqjM>
- Storytime Craft: Hansel and Gretel, activity from Learn Create Love, <http://learncreatelove.com/storytime-craft-hansel-gretel/>
- *There’s a Wolf at The Door: Five Classic Tales Retold*, picture book by Zoe B. Alley, [https://
bookshop.org/books/there-s-a-wolf-at-the-door-five-classic-tales-retold/9781952521089](https://bookshop.org/books/there-s-a-wolf-at-the-door-five-classic-tales-retold/9781952521089)

Optional Extensions

- Author Page and Archives for Brothers Grimm, from Short Kid Stories, <https://www.shortkidstories.com/authors/brothers-grimm/>
- *Hansel and Gretel*, picture book by Rachel Isadora, <https://bookshop.org/books/hansel-and-gretel-9780399250286/9780399250286>
- “Hansel and Gretel | Rachel Isadora”, video read-aloud by KINDRAGarten, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_yM_RRD85E
- “Gingerbread House | How It’s Made”, video from Discovery UK, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2H5Pmua-m4>
- 10 Modern Gingerbread Houses That Are Too Beautiful to Eat, article from Lonny, <https://www.lonny.com/10+Modern+Gingerbread+Houses+That+Are+Too+Beautiful+To+Eat>

Conceptual Knowledge - What Do You Want Them to Know?

1. Gingerbread houses and the story of Hansel and Gretel both grew in popularity at the same time, to the point that many historians do not know which came first.
2. Fairy tales and folk tales exist around the world, and often began to teach a lesson about morality or safety to young children.

Key Vocabulary

- **Folk tale** - a story that gets passed from generation to generation, often orally
- **Fairy tale** - a type of folk tale, which usually involves some type of magic and good triumphing over evil
- **Moral** - a lesson that a story teaches about how to behave in the world, often designed for children
- **Tone** - the mood of a particular story or text; the way a certain piece of writing makes the reader feel

Cross-Curricular Links

- English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science

Project Idea/Scenario

Students will create a new version or interpretation of a popular Grimm fairy tale.

Plan the Process: What Will the Students Do?

After learning about the various versions of Hansel and Gretel from around the world, students will learn about the brothers Grimm and the history of gingerbread houses.

Warm-up Activity - Activating Background Knowledge

- Write down the words "Once upon a time" on a white board or just a piece of paper. What do those words bring to mind?
 - If someone brings up fairy tales, talk about fairy tales you know. What makes it a fairy tale instead of just a story?
 - Do you know different versions of one fairy tale? Consider fairy tales you know from movies and from books; how do they differ? How are they the same?
- Review the Key Vocabulary from the lesson, including the idea of a moral in a story. Go back to the fairy tales you were discussing; do any of them have a moral?
- Today we are going to look closely at one particular fairy tale that is linked to holiday tradition, and learn where the story came from and how it has changed over time.

Sequence/Procedure

1. See if students can guess which story is connected to gingerbread houses. If students guess and are familiar with Hansel and Gretel, see what they can reconstruct of the story from memory. Then, read [Hansel and Gretel Stories Around the World](#), and focus on the first story in the book and choose at least one other to read as well.
 - a. Did the first story differ from what you had remembered?
 - b. How did the first story differ from the other story/stories in the book?
 - c. Why do you think that the stories might be different around the world? Consider the geographic region of where the stories came from, and the slightly different settings for each story.
2. Where did this story first come from? [Read about the brothers Grimm](#), and [watch the short video](#) to learn about their inspiration.
 - a. What do you think was the point, or moral of the story, of Hansel and Gretel when it was first told?
 - b. Why does this story still get told? What makes it interesting? Is the lesson about the woods and strangers still true and important today?
 - c. Has the tone of the story changed over time? Do we still have stories today meant to scare children?
3. Considering the witch's gingerbread house in the story, do you think that the story of Hansel and Gretel came first, or do you think that the Grimm brothers put it into the story because real people were already creating gingerbread houses?
 - a. Read about [the history of the gingerbread house](#), and watch the first few minutes of [the video about the history of gingerbread men](#). Despite what the article says, most historians agree that they do not know for certain which came first, the story or the building of gingerbread houses.
 - b. Based on what you have learned so far, which one do you think came first?
4. Put yourself into the story; if you had been walking in the forest, what sort of house would you be drawn to?
 - a. What kind of foods would make a house good to eat? Good to live in? Is there a difference?
5. Complete the handout on page 8 of the lesson plan with your new knowledge about gingerbread houses and the fairy tale of Hansel and Gretel.
6. Select a project from the possible creations list below and complete. Share the finished project while enjoying any of the recipes from Holiday Brunch.

Possible Creations

1. Since these stories were meant to be shared orally, see if you can tell the Hansel and Gretel a story in a comic strip fashion, with mostly dialogue telling the story. Look at examples from [There's a Wolf at the Door](#) for inspiration on how to change a fairy tale or folktale story into this format.

2. Create a puppet theater to retell the story the way that you would like to see it told. You can make a large-scale puppet show, or [use the ideas from this site](#) to create a simple puppet show that can be acted out on a smaller stage.
3. Could gingerbread be brought into another Grimm fairy tale? Review [the archive of other Grimm fairy tales](#), and think about which story has the best setting to update to include gingerbread in some way. Time of year and location of the story are important to consider. Draw a picture of your version of the story that incorporates gingerbread.

Extensions

1. Explore the science of gingerbread and how the houses now come ready to assemble by [watching the video about how they're made](#). What are the ingredients that help to make gingerbread the best to build or construct larger structures? Are there any other cookies or cakes you have made that might also work? What is in gingerbread houses that helps to preserve the houses so people can leave them sitting out?
2. The holiday season for everyone in the Northern Hemisphere is associated with winter, and cooler temperatures. [Read](#) or [watch the video read-aloud](#) of the retelling of Hansel and Gretel from Rachel Isadora, with her illustrations set in a different climate.
3. Modernize the gingerbread house! [Check out some inspiring and unusual gingerbread houses](#), and then consider how you would design and decorate your own modern gingerbread house. What candy ingredients would you use, and how many gingerbread walls would you need? Map it out and create your own shopping list of necessary ingredients. If you can, see if you can take your drawing from 2D to three dimensional and build your modern house!

Driving Questions: What is Icelandic Yule and the stories associated with it? How do these fairy and folk tales differ from those you are more familiar with? Why were these tales intended to scare originally? Why have they changed over time?

A Big Bite

Resources

- “9 Winter Holiday Folk Tales From Around the World”, article from Bustle, <https://www.bustle.com/articles/129631-9-winter-holiday-folk-tales-from-around-the-world>
- The Legend of the Icelandic Yule Lads, picture book by Heidi Herman, <https://bookshop.org/books/the-legend-of-the-icelandic-yule-lads/9781478743309>
- “The Yule Lads - Mischief Makers and Children Takers - Extra Mythology”, video from Extra Credits, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-LxYYm1YH0>
- The Wicked Feline Murder Floof, a Yule Cat Story | Monstrum, video from Storied, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfWUorR8D60>
- “Bjork’s Christmas cat and other Icelandic carols”, article from Iceland Monitor, <https://icelandmonitor.mbl.is/news/news/2014/12/15/bjork-s-christmas-cat-and-other-icelandic-carols/>
- Icelandic Santa Claus - the 13 Yule Lads, blog post from Iceland With a View, <https://icelandwithaview.com/the-13-yule-lads-of-iceland/>
- <https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/history-and-civilisation/2019/09/brothers-grimm-fairy-tales-were-never-meant-kids>
- How to Create Paper Mâché, tutorial from Wiki How, <https://www.wikihow.com/Create-Papier-M%C3%A2ch%C3%A9>
- 22 DIY Advent Calendar Ideas for Kids, guide from Playtivities, <https://playtivities.com/22-diy-advent-calendar-ideas-for-kids/>

Project Idea/Scenario

Learn about the holiday traditions and folklore of Iceland, focusing on the Yule lads and the Jólakötturinn, or the Yule Cat.

Sequence/Procedure

1. Do you know any of the Yule or holiday traditions from around the world? Are there stories about winter/holidays that are part of your culture and holiday traditions? How did you learn these stories?
 - a. [Read through the article about holiday traditions](#) from around the globe. Do the stories surprise you? Are they any that are more unusual than the ones that are part of your family tradition? Why or why not?

2. One of the countries mentioned on the list focuses on the traditions of Iceland. Icelandic holiday culture has similarities to other Northern European and Scandinavian traditions, but also has some unique stories. Read about the Yule lads in the picture book [The Legend of the Icelandic Yule Lads](#).
 - a. Does the tone of this story match what you thought it would be, based on the small description of Icelandic tradition you previously knew?
3. [Watch the video](#) Yule Lads - Mischief Makers and Children Takers.
 - a. How does the title of this video immediately signal that this has a slightly different tone from the picture book?
 - b. How has the message of the Yule Lads changed over time?
4. Why do you think new clothing is an important part of the Icelandic tradition? Consider where Iceland is geographically located, and what winter might be like there.
 - a. Can you think of any holiday traditions in your own family or culture that might have come from practical needs from long ago?
5. [Watch the video from PBS](#) about the Yule Cat, and learn how the story has changed over time.
 - a. Do you think a cat sounds like a scary creature? What are the attributes of the Yule Cat that helps to make it seem scary and threatening?
6. Using all your new knowledge, plus [the resource list from Iceland With a View](#), fill out the handout on pages 9-10 of the lesson plan.
7. Select a project from the list below and complete it. For extra inspiration, [listen to some Icelandic holiday music](#) while working! Share the finished project while enjoying any of the recipes from Holiday Brunch.

Possible Creations

1. Create your own Jólakötturinn/Yule Cat sculpture! Yours can be made of [paper mâché](#), or found objects and materials. Consider the purpose of the Yule cat, and see where you could place yours (along with a written explanation) to inform your community about a different holiday tradition that they are most likely not familiar with.
2. Create a mash-up of holiday stories -- either use the Yule lads and Yule Cat, or choose [one of the other stories from the holiday traditions](#) from around the world. Can you create a holiday mash-up where the characters from a different holiday tradition join with the holiday tradition or stories you know? To create a new folk tale, your story should be able to be told orally so that someone could repeat it to someone else to pass it along; see if you can create a simple enough story that brings two different worlds together in one new holiday story.
3. How would you warn people what to do and what to look out for, if they traveled to Iceland for the first time around the holiday season? Create a countdown clock, perhaps similar to [an advent calendar](#), with all the instructions of how to prepare for each day in the Icelandic holiday season.

Hansel and Gretel

What lesson do Hansel and Gretel learn?

What happens to the adults by the end of the story?

What is the moral of the story?

Which do you think came first - the gingerbread house, or the story of Hansel and Gretel? Why?

Draw your ideal gingerbread house. Make sure to include all the tasty details that would make your house stand out!



Who Are The Yule Lads?

Fill out the chart with the nicknames of the 13 Yule Lads, their favorite treats, and what you might expect them to gift you!

	Also known as...	What gift should you leave him?	What might he leave you?
Stekkjastaur			
Giljagaur			
Stúfur			
Pottasleikir			
Pvörusleikir			
Askasleikir			
Hurðaskellir			
Skyrgámur			
Bjúgnakrækir			
Gluggagægir			
Gáttapefur			
Ketkrókur			
Kertasníkir			