

TEACHERS' NOTES



USBORNE
Be Curious.

WORLD KITCHEN CELEBRATIONS

RECIPES FROM AROUND THE WORLD



By Abigail Wheatley
Illustrated by
Chaaya Prabhat

WORLD KITCHEN

TEACHING IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES

This resource pack has been designed to support the reading of **World Kitchen and World Kitchen: Celebrations** and to help children explore further the festivals and recipes featured in the books.

Themes: ✓ Culture ✓ Family gatherings ✓ Food ✓ Celebrations ✓ Holidays.

PRE-READING/PRE-COOKING ACTIVITY

Before opening the books, invite students to reflect on the role of food in their own lives. Ask them to think about a meal or snack that feels special to them—something tied to family, a holiday, or simply a favorite memory. Students can share in small groups or write in journals about the following questions:

- What foods do you eat on your birthday or for holidays?
 - Who do you usually eat with?
- How does sharing that food make you feel?

Then, create a class food traditions map: each student adds one food, noting its occasion and cultural or family significance. This activity builds personal connection before introducing the books, helping students see how food is more than nourishment—it's a story of identity, celebration, and community.



This guide was prepared by Anastasia Collins, MA, MLIS, librarian,
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WORLD KITCHEN

ABOUT THE BOOKS

World Kitchen

What if you could travel the world without leaving your kitchen?

In **World Kitchen**, kids just like you share their favorite family recipes from countries all around the globe. Each recipe comes with a story about when, why, and how it's eaten—whether for a holiday, a family gathering, or just an ordinary day. This book isn't only about cooking; it's about discovering traditions, hearing voices from many cultures, and seeing how food connects families everywhere.



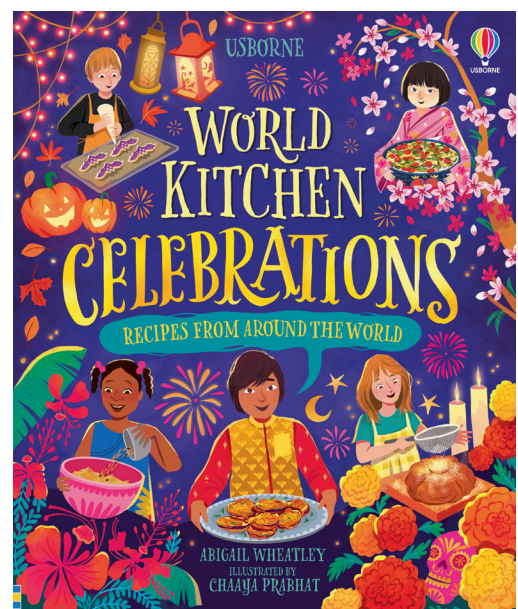
“A visually delightful take on global food...”

SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL STARRED REVIEW, 2024

World Kitchen: Celebrations

Food is at the heart of celebrations everywhere—from birthdays to New Year festivals to national holidays.

In **World Kitchen: Celebrations**, families around the world share the special dishes that make their holidays shine. You'll meet children who tell stories about baking, decorating, or stirring pots with their parents and grandparents, and you'll discover how a simple dish can hold big meaning. The book shows that preparing food is about more than eating—it's about sharing joy, remembering history, and celebrating together.



“Younger tweens will be immersed in annual global celebrations and relish this cookbook’s vibrant graphic novel feel.”

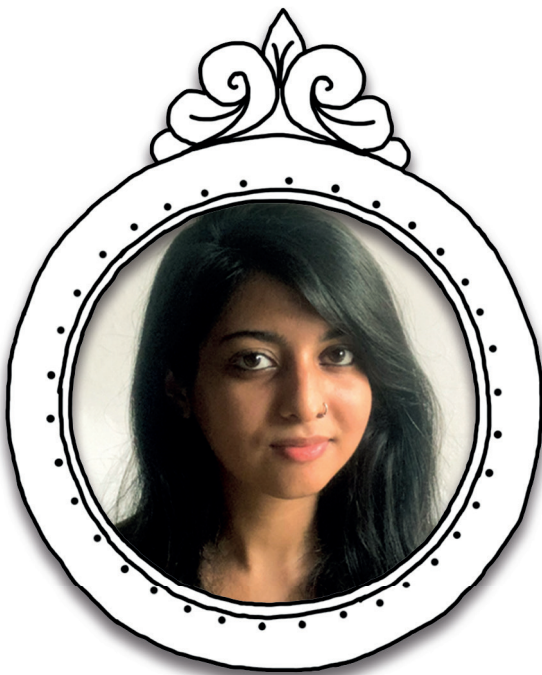
SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL, 2025

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WORLD KITCHEN

ABOUT THE CREATORS

Abigail Wheatley is a writer and editor who explores history, art, and food. Growing up in Australia and the UK, Abigail often found herself covered in paint or flour, or lost in a book. After a BA in English and a PhD on Medieval Castles, she combined her interests writing Usborne children's books - from cookery, craft and castles to science and unicorns. She has a gift for translating complex ideas into engaging and accessible texts for young readers. Wheatley combines clarity with warmth, guiding children through cooking basics while drawing connections to family traditions and cultural celebrations. Her writing emphasizes the importance of curiosity, respect, and shared discovery, making these books valuable tools for teachers who want to expand students' understanding of global cultures.



Chaaya Prabhat is an award-winning illustrator from India currently working out of Goa. She's worked with several publishers, as well as on digital illustration projects, stickers and book projects. She enjoys using pattern and color in her illustrations, and has previously won awards for her work from Behance and Cosmopolitan magazine.

She is known for her vibrant, detailed, and joyful artwork. Her illustrations bring to life the colors, textures, and excitement of the recipes and celebrations described in these books. Prabhat's work is notable for its warmth and inclusivity, helping readers see themselves reflected while also offering windows into the experiences of others. The energy and expressiveness make her images visual celebrations of community, family, and cultural diversity.

WORLD KITCHEN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Many recipes in the books were passed down from parents or grandparents. Why do you think families share food traditions?
2. Think about the sounds you hear while cooking—like chopping, sizzling, or boiling. How do these sounds make the kitchen feel fun, exciting, or comforting? What other kitchen sounds have you heard?
3. Both books show ways to change recipes for allergies or food needs. Why is it important to make sure everyone has a dish they can enjoy?
4. Some recipes, like charoset or conkies, come from one country, while others, like birthday cakes, are enjoyed many places around the world. What similarities and differences do you notice in these celebration foods?
5. Each recipe begins with a story. How does hearing about the child or family who makes the recipe help you connect to the food?
6. Many recipes are made to share with others. Why do you think food feels more special when it is shared? How do you feel when you share food with family or friends?



WORLD KITCHEN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

7. The books include foods from many countries. What new traditions or places did you learn about? How can food make us curious to learn more about our world?
8. Families spend time preparing ingredients before cooking. Why do you think preparation is an important part of making a meal? Can you think of a time when preparing carefully helped you do something well?
9. Celebrations often include food, but they may also include music, songs, or dances. What do you think all these things share? What are some ways food, music, and art all help bring people together?
10. If you could invite one of the children or families from the books to your own celebration, which would it be and what dish would you make for them? Say a little about why.
11. Look closely at the illustrations in the books. What do you notice about the colors, details, and celebrations? How do the pictures help you understand the recipes better?
12. Imagine writing your own recipe page for this series. What food would you share? What story would you tell about when and why your family makes it?



WORLD KITCHEN

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Celebration Collage

Have students create visual collages representing a cultural celebration from the books. They can use drawings, magazine cutouts, or digital images to show the foods, decorations, and people involved. Encourage students to include captions or labels that explain the significance of each element.

Cultural Food Map

Using a world map, have students locate the origin of each recipe featured in the books. Add labels or small illustrations to mark the dishes. As a class, discuss patterns—are certain ingredients common in particular regions? How do geography and climate shape foods?

Food and Memory Journals

Invite students to write journal entries about a food memory that matters to them. Encourage sensory details: sights, smells, textures, and sounds. Students can share entries in small groups, emphasizing how food connects to emotions, relationships, and traditions.

Illustration Study

Guide students to closely examine Prabhat's illustrations. Ask them to recreate a recipe page in their own style, paying attention to colors, textures, and mood. Discuss how illustration choices help communicate cultural meaning and emotional connection to food.



WORLD KITCHEN

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Comparing Celebrations

Pair two recipes from different countries and ask students to compare how they are alike and different. For example, compare Halloween cookies from the U.S. with Twelfth Night cake from France. Students can use Venn diagrams to visualize similarities and distinctions, and a taste test of their two chosen recipes can enhance this activity as well.

Class Recipe Collection

Invite each student to contribute a family or favorite recipe to create a class cookbook. Alongside each recipe, students should write a short explanation of when and why the dish is eaten. This mirrors the format of **World Kitchen** and builds community.

Food and Science Exploration

Select one ingredient featured in the books (such as rice, potatoes, or cocoa) and research the science behind it. How does it grow? In what climates does it thrive? How is it harvested and prepared? Students can present findings through posters or short reports.

