

Christmas

Language *hypothesizing, following instructions*

Materials paper, scissors, colored markers or pencils, glue sticks; *Cross-Curricular Activity*: a poinsettia or a few poinsettia petals, a small amount of acids (milk, vinegar and lemon juice). *Poinsettia pH Paper*: a ½ cup of poinsettia petals, coffee filters

Preparation Make copies of the Christmas template (1 per student); *Poinsettia pH Paper*: Cut the poinsettia petals into strips. Put them into a cup and add water until they are only just immersed. Heat them briefly in the microwave or stove until the petals become colorless. Pour the liquid into a container and have the coffee filters absorb the liquid. Leave the paper to dry.

Cross-Curricular Activity: Science

Poinsettia pH Paper

Elicit from students the name of a typical Christmas plant: *poinsettia*. Tell them they're going to do an experiment with acids and poinsettia pH paper. Show students a few poinsettia leaves and the poinsettia pH paper (see *Materials* and *Preparation*). Explain how you made the pH paper. If needed, explain the meaning of pH and acids. Tell students that the poinsettia paper will change into different colors with different acids.

Have students put drops of acids (see *Materials*) onto the paper and make note of what happens. Students can also try water.

Note: If you wish, you can repeat the experiment with bases (soapy water, baking powder, etc.).

Warm-up

Christmastime around the World

Ask about Christmastime in different parts of the world: *What's the weather like this time of year in*

a) New York or China, b) Guatemala City or Cairo, c) Rio de Janeiro or Sydney? Then ask *What would you do on your vacation if you were in any of these cities?*

1 Make Stacking Santas.

Draw a *babushka* doll on the board:



Elicit or explain that these Russian dolls fit into each other. Ask students if they have one or if they have ever seen one.

Hand out the Christmas templates (see *Preparation*) and the materials.

Ask students to cut out the three shapes and to use their colored markers or pencils to color the images on them.

Then have students fold all three shapes and glue each one together.

Encourage students to show the present at home, and then give it to a friend or family member as a gift.