Holiday Symbols and Customs

**Page 32 - Apache Girls Sunrise ceremony** – This ritual is less common because of the cost.

TYPE? Religious (Apache)

WHERE? In Arizona and New Mexico (prehistorical 60,000 and 30,000 B.C.E)

WHEN? 4 days in July

WHY? coming of age of young Apache girls, Prepare for their lives as adult women.

CLOTHING? Bright yellow dresses, face painted in white clay.

INVOLVES – **Blessing the stick** – the people believe she has the power to heal those who are suffering, they seek blessing from her.

**Cane –** Representing a long life, the cane is made out of wood and has bells, feathers and ribbons attached on to it, she holds it during her dances and used in the running rituals.

**Cattail Pollen** – plant to be sacred substance that represents the life giving quality of earth, guests at the ceremony sprinkle the pollen on her head.

**Ceremonial Dress** – Dresses in Bright yellow dress and wears that through-out the 4 days,

**Crown Dancers** – This is the most exciting part of the Whole ritual, costumes that Include wooden headdresses and black hoods. The perform a long series of athletic dances around a huge bonfire. Impersonating the mountain sprites known as Gaan, they are believed to have the power to drive away evil.

**Moulding** – the girl lies on a buckskin, and the sponsor massages her body, this causes the girl to be moulded into the proper form so that she will have strength and good health.

**Running Rituals**, cane in the ground she runs and circles around it, This Symbolizes the different stages of life she passes through.

**Sponsor** – is an older woman who helps her makes her transition into an adult, the sponsor often contributes money to finances the ceremony.

**Sunrise Dance –** This takes places during the 2nd day of the ritual, in the course of the performance with her sponsor the girl is believed to take on holy powers.

**Symbolic Tipi** – Is the end of the Ritual, it is a traditional Apache house, the structure is made by lashing together four spruce poles in a tipi shape, it provides a ceremonial enclosure.

**Page 53 – Ashura (Husain Day, Hosay)**

TYPE – Religious Shia Muslim

DATE OF OBSERVATION : first 10 days of the Islamic lunar month of Muharram

WHERE? BY shia Muslim throughout the world

CLOTHING – mourning clothes and refrain from shaving and bathing

WHY The commemoration of Husain’s Death

WHAT HAPPENS? – groups of men with their bodies dyed black and red roam the streets. Dragging chains ad preforming wild dances the pull out their hair, inflect wounds on themselves with their swords and occasionally engage in violent fights with Sunnis.

INVOLVES – **Ashura Pudding** – Everyone makes Assurer a pudding made from boiled wheat, dried currants, grains and nuts, similar to that prepared by Noah’s Wife.

**Rawad-Khani –** a group of friends go to a private gathering, where professional’s storyteller will recite the tale of Husain’s martyrdom playing upon the emotions of his listeners often reducing them to tears or them crying out Husain’s name. These gathering are usually taken place in mosques.

**Self-flagellation –** in which devotes Shia Muslims strike themselves with chains and knives while chatting the name of Husain, is symbolic of the pain and anger they feel about Husain’s murder by Umayyad soldiers.

**Sherbet** – Muslims eat a kind of sherbet in memory of the intense thirst that Husain experienced on the battlefield of Karbala.

**Taziyah-** is a play performed during Ashura in a Shia Community detailing the emotional re-enactment of Husain’s martyrdom.

**Page 99- Burial of the sardine**

TYPE? Religious (Christian)

WHERE? In Spain

WHEN? Between 4th February and March 10th: Ash Wednesday, The first day of lent

WHY? marking the end of all festivals,

CLOTHING? Any

INVOLVES **Sardine –** this symbolizes the dietary restrictions of lent. The burial of a fish was originally a protest against the Catholic traditions that fish be eaten instead of meat throughout the forty-day period. Now, when meat is only forbidden on Fridays, it serves as a reminder that worldly pleasures of Carnival must be put aside.

**Page 103- Candlemas (Groundhog Day)**

TYPE? Religious (Christian), Folkloric

WHERE? US and throughout the Christian world

WHEN? February 2nd

WHY? this holiday marks forty days after the birth of Jesus Christ.

CLOTHING? Any

INVOLVES **Candles** – this is a traditional symbol of rejoicing. Worshippers holding candles in their hands and people believed whenever these candles were used, they would chase away the devil. The unused candles were preserved as a good luck charms.

**Groundhog Day** – February 2nd is popularly known as Groundhog Day. There was a medieval superstition that all hibernating animals came out of their caves and dens on Candlemas to check on the weather.

**Page 156 – Columbus Day**

TYPE? Historic, National

WHERE? Italy, Latin, America, Mexico, US and most Spanish speaking nations

WHEN? 2nd Monday in October

WHY? Celebrates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus arrival in America

CLOTHING? Any

INVOLVES **Parades** – This is a parade that takes place in New York City, where more than 35,000 marchers and over one million spectators, including members of the Knights of Columbus and Italian-American groups. The parade also takes place in boston, the biggest parade takes in Los Angeles and san Francisco.

**Re-enactments** - Re-enactments of Columbus’s first landing in the New World are held in various locations across the US. This portrays Christopher Columbus as he disembarks from the longboat that has just brought him to shore while Indians emerge from a village to set up on beach to welcome the explorer.

**Page 180 –Dewali, Festival of lights**

TYPE? Religious (Hindu)

WHERE? Italy, Latin, America, Mexico, US and most Spanish speaking nations

WHEN? October – November, last two days of the Hindu lunar month of asvina and first two days of Kartika

WHY? Celebrates the Festival of Lights

CLOTHING? New Traditional Indian Clothing

INVOLVES **Lamps –** This festival is mostly known for the light/ constant illumination by lamps, bonfires and fireworks. Everyone’s house, gardens, courtyards and roofs are filled with oil earthen lamps called dipas, candles or electric bulbs.

**Good luck Design** – in some parts of India and Malaysia, families draw elaborate designs called alpanas on the floor of their homes near the front door to welcome Lakshmi.