Earth Calendar & Glogster

Mini-Lesson Idea #4

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1. Grade level/Audience:

I would use this technology in a 1st grade classroom during our social studies lessons.

2. Curriculum topic:

I would use this technology in a social studies lesson concerning other cultures around the world and their special holidays and days of celebration.

3. Tools:

I would use Earth Calendar, an online daybook/calendar of special days around the world with information about them, and Glogster, a virtual, 3D, multimedia poster maker.

4. Synopsis of what you are doing including how you are using the tools:

I will begin the mini-lesson by referencing prior knowledge of the students—that each culture has its own special days of celebration and holidays which are different from our own. I will first release students to Earth Calendar to explore. I will give them a time limit and explain that they should find one particular holiday or special day that interests them in particular, because they are going to make a virtual poster about that holiday. Then I will monitor the room as students explore Earth Calendar, reminding them to learn everything they can about their chosen holiday—its visual aspects (color schemes, decorations, etc.), its rituals, the culture surrounding it, etc. After a set amount of time is up, I will have students log onto Glogster (or use the app on their iPads) and make a Glog about their chosen holiday. It can be made like an advertisement, an informational poster, a decoration for the holiday, etc. It can be presented in any way, but it must represent the holiday effectively and give us some information concerning it. I will release students to work on their Glogs. And when they are finished, we will present them to the class and I will use them as a means for assessment.