

Topic: Family Holiday Celebrations

Abstract: My family doesn't have many traditions but they do get together for the holidays. We cook the traditional holiday dishes like turkey and ham for thanksgiving and we also mix in some Mexican dishes like tamales and champurrado, a thick hot chocolate. We all get together and tell jokes and stories and catch up with each family member. Sometimes at the end of the day we play games like Taboo, a game similar to charades, or go places like Christmas in the park and goes ice skating. My family doesn't do much but when we get together for the holidays they do enough to make those days memorable.

Keywords: Family, Cooking, Family Games, Skating, Great memories, Fun.

Family Tradition

My family is from Mexico but all of my aunts and uncles were raised here in the U.S. My family doesn't really have all that too many traditions except during the holidays. During the holidays some of my family members get together at one of their homes and we cook a huge dinner that includes a mixture of holiday foods and Mexican dishes. A good example of this would be Thanksgiving, where the traditional turkey and stuffing is prepared but there are also tamales, champurrado, cheesecakes, pumpkin pie, flan, and different types of gelatins. All of these dishes are prepared by the women of the family usually the grandmothers are in charge of the really big dishes and assign who is going to cook what so that all of the food is ready by the

end of the night. Meanwhile the children spend time running around having fun and the men are usually telling jokes or stories in the garage or backyard while they barbecue some of the food. Both my father and mother's family come together, but usually I visit my father's family first for a while until about ten at night or until everybody goes home.

While the food is being prepared me and my cousins will watch movies, hang out, play videogames, or go out and play a sport like soccer or football. If we get bored we usually join the men in the garage or backyard and listen to their stories, listen to them tease each other, and even we become fair game and get teased. It is fun though because we all tell jokes and tease each other and would eventually get to the dinner table with our sides hurting even though we haven't started eating yet. When it's time to eat, someone will say thanks for all of the things and people around us. After we eat we sometimes play family games like Taboo until midnight.

Taboo is where you form teams of two or four and go head to head against the other team. You pick up a card and your teammate acts out whatever word is on it and your partner needs to guess what it is before the timer runs out. Every time you do you gain a point and when the cards run out, you count up the points and whichever team has the most wins. Once the word was glass and my aunt couldn't guess what the word was, so my cousin (her partner/ her son) pulled out his contact lens and she was actually able to guess the word was "glass". When it ends I usually go home to my other family and then enjoy my time with them.

If I have room I will eat whatever delicious dinner plates are on the table and I will join in on the fun that was going on while I was gone. We recently started playing this strange game with a deck of cards and the cards have different characters and drawings on it. Instead of clubs, diamonds, spades, kings, and queens, it was actual clubs, swords, daggers, cups, and coins. The

objective of the game is similar to the game UNO, in which players have to get rid of their cards and first one to do so wins. The only difference is you can only lay down cards that have the same type of picture on it and the person that has the highest number of characters gets to go first again.

If you don't have the same type of card you have to go fishing for more cards, which is bad cause now you're just adding on to your deck decreasing your chances of being the first to win the game. This has become a favorite in our family and we enjoy it even on regular weekdays. There really is nothing like spending time with your family and having fun and it doesn't matter what you are doing, it is always creates good memories. Luckily the fun doesn't end there and we can always count on Christmas to bring your family together again and you get to do some of the things we forgot to do or didn't do the last time we were together. On Christmas day it is usually the same thing with the exception of the gifts. Even though you get older you still can't wait to open the presents and see what you got, the only difference you hope for nice clothes instead of toys. We occasionally will take a trip and visit fun locations like Christmas in the park and go ice skating, which is fun if you can skate and have good balance otherwise you spend most of your time worrying about doing the splits or losing your teeth.

When I and my cousin get the hang of skating we challenge each other to a race and see who can go the fastest without falling on their face. After a couple of hours of sightseeing and skating we finally go home and go to bed or continue through the night playing more family games. The holidays are kind of fun in my family especially when we get together, but sadly there are those years when no one gets together, which has been happening recently because some of my family members live far and don't have the money to travel and visit. Fortunately

the very few of us that still get together have a good time doing some of these things and the other great part is that the food is still cooked and it is still just as good.