



## CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD AND HOLIDAYS OF LIGHT

### Observation and Discussion Worksheet

There are 51 trees decorated for Christmas and 10 displays of cultural celebrations of the season. Take time to walk around and look at all of them before making a selection of one tree and one display to concentrate on.

1. Choose a tree that captures your interest. Write the name of the country here.
  
2. Tell why you chose this particular tree. It could be the types of ornaments, the lights, the unusual decorations, the country that it represents, or some other reason.
  
3. Stand still and examine the tree. Think about the difference between symbols and decorations. Write your idea about what the difference is here.
  
4. Sort the decorations into two or three groups that have common characteristics. Label each group and list the decorations under the label.
  
5. Notice what the decorations are **made of**. Tell your chaperon why you think the people used **that material** to decorate their tree. After you finish, have the chaperon or parent initial here. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Discuss with a partner what you think the *symbols* on the tree mean to the people of that country. Write one thing your partner says. Then go look at your partner's tree and do the same thing.
  
7. Look under the tree. If there are objects or ground coverings there, write why you think they are there and what you think they symbolize.
  
8. Walk around and find other trees that have similar decorations to the tree you choose to examine. What decoration do you see appearing on many of the trees? Does that decoration also appear on the tree you decorate at your home?
  
9. What decoration do you have on **your** tree at home that also appears on a lot of other trees here at the museum? Why do you think that form of decoration is common to so many countries?
  
10. There are ten cultural displays in glass boxes. Choose one and write the name of it here. Examine the artifacts inside and read the labels describing them. What does this display tell you about what is important to that culture?