Festival Patterns and Purposes: A Sorting Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the significance of festivals across different religions and worldviews, identifying how they are celebrated and the values they promote.

Max the monkey has been collecting information about different festivals, but his notes have become jumbled! Your task is to sort these features into the correct categories. For each item in the questions list, identify which festival it belongs to (Diwali, Easter, or Eid-al-Fitr) and explain the underlying value being celebrated.

Word bank: Diwali · Easter · Eid-al-Fitr · Light · New Beginnings · Gratitude · Community · Reflection · Renewal · Victory of Good over Evil

1. Identify the festival associated with the 'Festival of Lights' and justify why light is used as a powerful symbol during this celebration. (2 marks)

2. Compare the celebration of Eid-al-Fitr with the practice of fasting during Ramadan. Explain why gratitude is a central theme at the end of this period. (2 marks)

3. Easter is often associated with symbols like eggs and chicks. Explain what these symbols represent in terms of 'new beginnings' and 'renewal'. (2 marks)

4. Justify why many festivals involve sharing special meals with family and friends. What does this reveal about the human need for community? (2 marks)

5. What might happen to a community if they stopped celebrating their traditional festivals? Explain the impact on their shared history and identity. (2 marks)

6. Compare and contrast how different festivals use colour or decoration to express joy. Why do humans feel the need to use art to mark special occasions? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Festival Map' that connects three different festivals to a central symbol of peace. Surround your map with patterns that represent the joy found in these celebrations.

Extension challenge: Design your own original festival! Give it a name, decide what time of year it takes place, choose three symbolic colours, and write a paragraph describing the core value your festival teaches to the world.