

Celebrations Across the Seasons

Learning objective: To understand the significance of festivals and celebrations within different communities and why they are important to people.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Ensure your answers are written in full sentences where required.

Festivals are vibrant occasions that bring communities together to share joy, reflect on history, or celebrate the changing seasons. Throughout the year, people across the world take time to pause their daily routines to mark special events. For example, some traditions involve lighting lamps to symbolise the triumph of light over darkness, while others focus on gathering with family to share a grand feast after a period of fasting or reflection. Ellie the elephant, who loves history, explains that festivals often tell us stories about the past. She notes that whether it is a harvest festival, a religious celebration, or a local community gala, these gatherings help people feel a sense of belonging. Max the monkey finds the math behind these events fascinating; he tracks how lunar cycles often dictate the dates of festivals, showing that our calendar is deeply connected to the natural world. By participating in these traditions, people pass on their heritage to the next generation, ensuring that stories, music, and special foods are never forgotten. Festivals are not just days off; they are the threads that weave our diverse society together.

Word bank: community · tradition · significance · commemorate · festivity · reflection

1. According to the passage, what are two reasons why communities hold festivals? (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. How does Max the monkey explain the link between festivals and the natural world? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why might a festival be considered a way of 'weaving our diverse society together'? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. Explain why people might feel a sense of belonging during a festival. (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is important for families to keep old traditions alive? Justify your answer. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of a community celebration that includes symbols of light and nature, perhaps including Ellie and Max enjoying the event together.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast two different festivals you have heard of. How are they similar in their purpose, and what differences exist in the way they are celebrated? Justify why these differences might exist based on the history of the cultures involved. What might happen to a community if they stopped celebrating their festivals altogether?