

Festivals of Light and Celebration

Learning objective: To explore the significance of light, community, and symbolism in various religious and secular festivals.

Read each question carefully and provide thoughtful, detailed responses. Use the word bank to help you construct your explanations.

Festivals are important events that help people celebrate their beliefs, history, or the changing seasons. Many festivals, such as Diwali, Hanukkah, and Christmas, use light as a way to symbolise hope or the victory of good over evil. Others, like Eid-al-Fitr, focus on community, sharing meals, and acts of charity. These celebrations often involve special foods, decorations, and time spent with family and friends.

Word bank: symbolism · tradition · community · celebration · reflection · significance · culture · spiritual

1. Identify two different festivals that use light as a key symbol and explain why light is often used in these celebrations. (2 marks)

2. Max the monkey wants to know why community is such an important part of festivals like Eid-al-Fitr. Explain the value of sharing meals and helping others during these times. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a festival you have studied with a birthday celebration. What do they have in common and how are they different? (3 marks)

4. Justify why many festivals involve special or traditional clothing. What does this tell us about the people celebrating? (2 marks)

5. Explain why it is important for different cultures to share their festival traditions with others. (2 marks)

6. What might happen if a community stopped celebrating their traditional festivals? Discuss the potential impact on their shared history and local identity. (3 marks)

Draw: Zara the zebra is designing a poster for a brand new festival that celebrates the arrival of spring. Draw her poster, including symbols that represent new life and light, and write a short slogan to explain what the festival is about.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer like Finn the dolphin visiting a new country. Write a diary entry describing a festival you have witnessed. Include details about the atmosphere, the music, the food, and the core message the people are trying to share.