

Festival Traditions: A Comparative Exploration

Learning objective: To identify and compare the significance of key religious and cultural festivals, understanding how communities express their beliefs through celebration.

Max the monkey has been busy collecting information about festivals from around the world to solve a mathematical pattern in how communities celebrate. Use the word bank to correctly complete the 'True or False' statements. If the statement is False, you must justify your answer by providing the correct information.

Word bank: Diwali · Easter · Eid-ul-Fitr · Hanukkah · Lunar New Year · Vaisakhi

1. True or False: Diwali is known as the 'Festival of Lights' and is celebrated by lighting small clay lamps called diyas to symbolise the victory of light over darkness. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

2. True or False: Eid-ul-Fitr is a festival that marks the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

3. True or False: During Vaisakhi, members of the Sikh community celebrate the formation of the Khalsa. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the symbolism of light in Diwali and Hanukkah. How do these traditions serve a similar purpose for their respective communities? (3 marks)

5. Explain why many festivals include the tradition of sharing a special meal or giving gifts to those in need. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if a community stopped celebrating its traditional festivals? Justify your opinion regarding the impact on cultural identity. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene representing a festival of your choice. Include at least three specific symbols or items used during the celebration (for example, lanterns, special foods, or specific colours) and label them clearly.



Extension challenge: Design your own festival! Give it a name, decide what time of year it would be celebrated, and describe one unique ritual that would take place. Explain the significance behind your chosen ritual and how it brings people together.