

Religious Festivals: Beliefs, Traditions, and Community

Learning objective: To evaluate the significance of festivals and rites of passage within diverse religious traditions.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of religious festivals, symbols, and community practices to provide detailed answers. Remember to use subject-specific vocabulary.

Festivals are significant events in the lives of religious believers. They often serve to commemorate historical events, celebrate sacred stories, or mark the transition of time. While each religion has unique customs, many festivals share common themes such as acts of charity, gathering with family, and deep personal reflection. These occasions strengthen the bonds of a community and allow individuals to express their devotion through specific rituals and observances.

Word bank: Pilgrimage · Ritual · Symbolism · Community · Sacred · Observance · Reflection · Tradition · Faith · Commemoration

1. Identify two common features shared by many religious festivals across different faiths. (2 marks)

2. Max the monkey is curious about symbols. Explain why symbols, such as light or special food, are important during religious festivals. (3 marks)

3. Nova the owl wants to know about the role of a 'pilgrimage'. Define what a pilgrimage is and explain why a believer might choose to undertake one. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast how festivals can be both a time for joyful celebration and a time for solemn personal reflection. Give examples to support your answer. (4 marks)

5. Ellie the elephant has been studying history. Explain why communities feel it is important to pass down traditions through festivals from one generation to the next. (4 marks)

6. Choose a festival you have studied. Write a detailed response justifying why this festival is essential for the religious community that observes it. Consider its social, spiritual, and historical impact. (5 marks)

7. If a festival were removed from a religion's calendar, how might that impact the faith of the followers? Justify your answer. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene representing a religious festival. Include at least three symbolic items and a brief label explaining what each symbol represents to the believers.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are designing a brand-new festival that focuses on gratitude and nature. Describe the rituals, the special food, and the central message of this festival. Why would this be a valuable addition to a community? Total: /25