

A Tapestry of Traditions: Why We Celebrate

Learning objective: To understand the significance of festivals and celebrations within different communities, identifying how they reflect shared values and heritage.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences where appropriate and refer back to the passage to support your reasoning.

Across the globe, human history is woven with the vibrant threads of festivals. Whether it is the brilliant glow of Diwali lamps, the quiet reflection of Ramadan, the joyous carolling of Christmas, or the colourful processions of Vaisakhi, these events serve as vital markers of time. Max the monkey often observes that festivals are like a recurring maths sequence: they follow patterns that bring communities together at specific times each year.

Festivals are more than just holidays; they are physical expressions of a community's heart. They allow people to pass down their heritage to younger generations, ensuring that ancient stories and values are not forgotten. During these times, people often share special meals, exchange gifts, or perform traditional dances that have been practised for centuries. For many, these celebrations provide a sense of belonging and a moment to pause from the bustle of daily life. By participating in these rituals, we do more than just enjoy the festivities; we strengthen the invisible ties that connect us to our neighbours, our history, and the diverse world around us.

Word bank: heritage · communal · significance · tradition · reflection · festivity

1. Name two specific festivals mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what is one activity people do to preserve their heritage during a festival? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author suggests that festivals are 'more than just holidays'. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to a community's culture if they stopped celebrating their traditional festivals? (3 marks)

5. Do you agree that festivals are essential for a happy society? Justify your answer using examples from the text or your own knowledge. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents the concept of 'unity' during a festival. Think about how colours, food, or light can bring people together.



Extension challenge: Research a festival from a culture different to your own. Write a short paragraph explaining the history behind it and compare its significance to a festival you celebrate personally. Why do you think humans feel a natural need to mark special occasions with rituals and gatherings?