

Year 5 Religious Education: Exploring World Festivals

Learning objective: To identify and describe the significance of various religious festivals and understand how they are celebrated by different communities.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of religious festivals. Read the front of the card, attempt to answer, and then check your response against the provided definition.

Diwali

The Hindu Festival of Lights, signifying the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

Eid-ul-Fitr

A significant Muslim festival marking the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting.

Hanukkah

The Jewish Festival of Dedication, commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

Vesak

A major Buddhist festival celebrating the birth, enlightenment, and passing of Gautama Buddha.

Christmas

The Christian festival celebrating the Nativity, or the birth of Jesus Christ.

Lunar New Year

A festival celebrated in many East Asian cultures, marking the beginning of the new year based on the lunisolar calendar.

What is the purpose of a 'fast' during a religious festival?

A period of abstaining from food or drink to focus on spiritual reflection, self-discipline, and empathy for those in need.

Explain the significance of light in many religious festivals.

Light often symbolises hope, divine guidance, knowledge, and the triumph of truth over ignorance or darkness.

Compare and contrast two festivals you have studied.

Answers will vary; students should identify similarities (e.g., family gatherings, special foods) and differences (e.g., origin stories, specific rituals).

Justify why festivals are important for religious communities.

Festivals strengthen community bonds, pass on traditions to younger generations, and provide time for collective worship and reflection.

What might happen if a community stopped celebrating its traditional festivals?

The community might lose its sense of shared identity, historical connection, and the unique cultural rituals that bind members together.

Define the term 'Sacred' in the context of a festival.

Something considered holy, deserving of great respect, and set apart from everyday, ordinary life.