

A World of Celebration: Festivals and Traditions

Step into the circle of celebration – explore the diverse traditions that light up our world!

- Festivals often serve as a way for communities to commemorate significant historical events or sacred stories that define their shared identity.
- Light is a powerful symbol used in many traditions, such as Diwali, Hanukkah, and Christmas, representing the triumph of hope and goodness over darkness.
- Special foods are prepared during festivals not just for enjoyment, but to act as symbols of gratitude, prosperity, or remembrance of the past.
- Acts of charity and generosity, such as giving gifts or donating to those in need, are central to the spirit of many global celebrations.
- Rites of passage, including birthdays or naming ceremonies, are personal festivals that mark an individual's growth and journey through life.
- Public festivals often involve processions, music, and dance, which help to foster a sense of belonging and joy within a local neighbourhood.

Did you know? Did you know that many festivals are linked to the lunar calendar? Because the moon's cycle is shorter than a solar year, festivals like Eid al-Fitr, Rosh Hashanah, and the Lunar New Year move to a different date on our calendar every single year!

Key vocabulary: Ritual · Observance · Symbolism · Community · Pilgrimage · Tradition · Heritage · Unity