Festival Patterns and Traditions

Learning objective: To understand the significance, symbols, and shared values behind various festivals observed in the UK and around the world.

Zara the zebra has been travelling the world to sketch patterns from different festivals. However, she has mixed up her notes! Match the festival name in the left column to the correct description and primary symbol in the right column by drawing a line. Then, answer the questions below to show your understanding of why these festivals are celebrated.

Word bank: Diwali · Eid-ul-Fitr · Christmas · Lunar New Year · Passover · Diyas · Red Envelopes · Nativity Scene · Matzah · Crescent Moon

1. Choose one festival from the list above. Explain why it is important for families to come together during this time. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Many festivals include the act of giving. How does giving gifts or charity help strengthen a community? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why do you think light (such as candles, lanterns, or fireworks) is a common theme in so many different festivals? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. If you were to create a brand new festival that celebrates kindness, what would be your main symbol and why? (3 marks) (3 marks)

5. Look at the cost of festival preparation: If a bag of traditional sweets costs £2.50 and you buy 4 bags for a celebration, how much have you spent in total? (1 mark) (1 mark)

Draw: Zara the zebra wants to see your creative side! In the space below, draw a design for a festival lantern or a symbol that represents peace and celebration for your own community.

Extension challenge: Research a festival that is celebrated in a country you have never visited. Write a short poem, in the style of Leo the lion, describing the colours and sounds of that festival.