A World of Festivals

Learning objective: To understand the purpose and diversity of festivals across different cultures and religions.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions using full sentences.

Festivals are special times when people come together to celebrate important events. Across the world, different communities have their own unique traditions. Some festivals are based on the seasons, while others are linked to religious beliefs or historical stories. For example, Diwali is known as the Festival of Lights. Families decorate their homes with colourful patterns called rangoli and light small oil lamps to welcome happiness. In other places, people celebrate the Lunar New Year with loud drums, dragon dances, and red lanterns to bring good luck. Max the monkey loves learning about these festivals because he finds the patterns in the decorations fascinating! Meanwhile, Ellie the elephant remembers that festivals are not just about fun; they are about sharing food, being kind to neighbours, and remembering the past. Whether it is a harvest festival in a local village or a worldwide celebration, festivals help us feel connected to one another. During these times, people often wear special clothes, eat delicious meals, and share gifts. Festivals are a wonderful way to learn about the history and beliefs of friends in our community.

Word bank: celebration · tradition · lunar · community · festive · culture

1. Name two things families do to celebrate Diwali, according to the text. (2 marks)

2. What are used during the Lunar New Year to bring good luck? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think people share food and gifts during festivals? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why are festivals important for a community? (2 marks)

5. If you could create a new festival for your school, what would it celebrate and why? Give one reason for your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a festival celebration. Include some colourful decorations, such as lanterns or lamps, and show people sharing a meal together.

Extension challenge: Research one festival that happens in the United Kingdom, such as Harvest Festival or Pancake Day. Write three facts about how it is celebrated.