# Festival Patterns and Traditions: A Cultural Exploration

*Learning objective: To identify and compare common features of religious and secular festivals, understanding how communities express their values through traditions.*

Zara the zebra loves spotting the patterns that make festivals special! Read the list of festival features below. For each item, decide if it is a 'Preparation', a 'Celebration', or a 'Reflection'. Write the feature in the correct column of the table provided. Then, answer the questions to apply your knowledge of how these traditions bring people together.

*Word bank: Decorating the home · Sharing a special meal · Giving gifts · Remembering ancestors · Cleaning and tidying · Lighting candles · Acts of charity · Wearing traditional clothes*

**1. Sort the word bank items into three categories: Preparation, Celebration, and Reflection. Explain why 'Acts of charity' is often considered a vital part of many festivals. (4 marks)**

**2. Max the monkey has been given £20.00 to buy supplies for a community festival. He spends £8.50 on decorations and £7.25 on ingredients for a traditional cake. How much money does he have left, and why is sharing food significant in many festival traditions? (3 marks)**

**3. Choose one festival you have studied. Identify one ritual used during this festival and explain what it symbolises for the people who celebrate it. (2 marks)**

**4. Why do some festivals follow a lunar calendar while others follow a solar calendar? How does this change the time of year a festival might fall? (2 marks)**

**5. If you were to create a brand new festival to celebrate 'Friendship', what is one tradition you would include and what would it represent? (2 marks)**

**Draw: Draw a 'Festival Mind Map' in the centre of your page. In the middle, draw a symbol of unity. In the branches, draw three different symbols representing food, light, and gifts, as seen in festivals around the world.**

*Extension challenge: Research a festival that occurs in a different country to the UK. Create a short 'Festival Fact File' including the date, the origin of the festival, and one unique tradition that is different from festivals held in the UK.*