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 center 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.