



FESTIVALS

Your teacher will help you with unfamiliar vocabulary. Write the words on page 2.

1. Christmas (Christianity)

Celebrating the Birth of Jesus: Celebrated on December 25th, Christmas is a joyous Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, considered the Son of God. It's a time for joy, peace, and family togetherness. Christmas traditions vary across the globe, but common elements include decorating homes with twinkling lights, Christmas trees adorned with ornaments, and nativity scenes depicting the birth of Jesus. People attend church services to celebrate the occasion, sing carols filled with messages of hope and goodwill, and exchange gifts to express love and appreciation for loved ones. Children eagerly await Santa Claus, a jolly figure who brings presents on Christmas Eve. Christmas embodies the spirit of giving, reminding us of the importance of compassion and generosity. It's a time for families to come together, reflect on the message of peace on Earth, and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

2. Songkran (Thailand)

A Refreshing Start to the New Year: Songkran, celebrated in April, marks the Thai New Year. It's a unique and exciting festival known for its giant water fight! People arm themselves with buckets, hoses, and even water guns, playfully splashing each other. The water symbolizes washing away bad luck from the past year and welcoming the new year with a clean slate. People wear colorful clothing and visit temples to make wishes for good fortune and prosperity. Families gather for special meals and celebrations, marking the beginning of a new year together. Songkran is a refreshing and joyous way to welcome a new chapter, filled with laughter, tradition, and hope for a prosperous year ahead.

3. Hanukkah (Judaism)

A Celebration of Faith and Miracles: Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating a historical miracle. According to tradition, a small amount of oil miraculously lasted for eight days, allowing Jews to rededicate their temple after a period of persecution. Each night of Hanukkah, families light a special menorah, a candle holder with nine branches, adding one candle each night. They enjoy delicious foods like potato pancakes (latkes) and donuts, symbolizing the oil used in the miracle. Children receive small gifts, and families play games like Dreidel. Hanukkah is a time to celebrate the importance of faith, the power of miracles, and the enduring traditions that connect generations.

4. Ramadan (Islam)

A Time for Reflection and Deepening Faith: Ramadan is a holy month observed by Muslims worldwide. It's a period of spiritual growth, self-discipline, and increased devotion to Allah (God). From sunrise to sunset, Muslims abstain from food, drink, and other worldly pleasures. This practice helps cultivate empathy for those less fortunate and fosters appreciation for everyday blessings. Throughout Ramadan, Muslims attend mosques for additional prayers, recite verses from the Quran, and engage in charitable acts. Families and communities gather for nightly meals (Iftar) after sunset, sharing stories, strengthening bonds, and reflecting on their faith. Ramadan culminates in the joyous celebration of Eid al-Fitr, marking the end of the fast. Families gather for elaborate meals, exchange gifts, and visit relatives. Ramadan is a time for spiritual growth, strengthening faith, and fostering community spirit.

5. Holi (Hinduism)

A Vibrant Celebration of New Beginnings: Holi, also known as the Festival of Colors, is a vibrant celebration in India and Nepal. It's a joyous occasion to throw colorful powder at friends and family, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil and the arrival of spring. People dress in white clothes that become vibrant canvases for the colorful powder. The air is filled with music, dance, and infectious laughter. After a playful battle with colors, everyone washes up and enjoys delicious sweets together. Holi is a time to let go of past grudges, mend broken relationships, and create new friendships. It's a celebration filled with joy, forgiveness, and the spirit of new beginnings.

6. Oktoberfest (Germany)

A Toast to Bavarian Culture: Oktoberfest is a world-famous German festival celebrated in Munich every fall. For two weeks, the city transforms into a vibrant hub of celebration, centered around beer and Bavarian culture. People from all over the world gather in large tents to enjoy traditional German beer, indulge in delicious food like sausages and pretzels, and sway to the lively music of Bavarian bands. There are parades with colorful floats, thrilling carnival rides, and traditional games to enjoy. Oktoberfest is a time to celebrate Bavarian heritage, raise a glass with friends, and create lasting memories.

Vocabulary - Write 4-5 new words you have learned from each Festival.

1. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
2. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
3. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
4. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
5. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
6. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

Summaries

Summarize each of the festivals in three sentences.

1. _____.

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2. _____.

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3. _____.

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4. _____.

_____.
5. _____.

_____.
6. _____.

_____.

New Vocabulary and Synonyms

Choose the two most useful new words from each reading and find synonyms for them.

1. _____ . Synonyms: _____, _____, _____.
_____ . Synonyms: _____, _____, _____.
2. _____ . Synonyms: _____, _____, _____.
_____ . Synonyms: _____, _____, _____.
3. _____ . Synonyms: _____, _____, _____.
_____ . Synonyms: _____, _____, _____.
4. _____ . Synonyms: _____, _____, _____.
_____ . Synonyms: _____, _____, _____.
5. _____ . Synonyms: _____, _____, _____.
_____ . Synonyms: _____, _____, _____.
6. _____ . Synonyms: _____, _____, _____.
_____ . Synonyms: _____, _____, _____.