



# Amazing Traditions and Customs Around the World

KS2

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 4 min read

## What Are Traditions and Customs?

**Traditions** are special ways of doing things that families and communities have followed for many, many years. **Customs** are habits or practices that people in a country share. They might involve celebrations, foods, clothes, or the way people greet each other.

Every country around the world has unique traditions that make it special. Learning about them helps us understand different cultures and appreciate how diverse our world really is.

Think of it like your family's own special way of celebrating birthdays or holidays - that's your family tradition!

## Celebrations and Festivals

Many countries have wonderful festivals that happen at the same time each year. In **Japan**, people celebrate **Cherry Blossom Festival** in spring, where families gather under blooming trees for picnics and parties. In **India**, **Diwali** is a festival of lights where families light lamps, share sweets, and wear new clothes.

**Mexico** has **Día de Muertos** (Day of the Dead), where people remember loved ones who have passed away with colourful decorations and special foods. In **Spain**, people celebrate **La Tomatina** - a festival where thousands throw tomatoes at each other in the streets!

## Food and Eating Customs

Different countries have special ways of eating and preparing food. In **China**, people eat **moon cakes** during the **Mid-Autumn Festival**. In **France**, having a long family dinner is very important, and meals can last hours.

Many countries have special foods for particular occasions. **Italy** has different pasta dishes for different holidays, while **Germany** bakes special Christmas bread called

**stollen.**

Think of it like how your family might always have turkey at Christmas or special cakes on birthdays – but imagine doing this for thousands of years!

## **Greetings and Social Customs**

People around the world greet each other in different ways. In **Thailand**, people press their hands together and bow slightly when saying hello. In **Middle Eastern** countries, friends often greet with kisses on the cheek.

These customs show respect and are very important in those cultures. What seems normal in one country might be surprising in another, but all these traditions show how people care about each other.

## **Why Do Traditions Matter?**

Traditions help people feel connected to their family, community, and country. They teach children about their **heritage** – the history and culture passed down through generations. By learning about traditions from other countries, we become more understanding, curious, and respectful of people who are different from us.