



How People Around the World Celebrate Important Festivals

KS3

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Ages 11-14



4 min read

What Are Festivals?

A **festival** is a special celebration that happens at the same time every year. These celebrations are super important to people because they mark things like religious beliefs, historical events, seasons changing, or just having fun together as a community. Almost every country around the world has its own unique festivals that tell us about their culture and what matters most to them.

Think of it like your family's birthday parties or Christmas celebrations—except festivals are celebrated by entire countries or communities of people all at once!

Religious Festivals Around the World

Many of the biggest festivals celebrate **religious** beliefs. In **India**, millions of people celebrate **Diwali**, also called the **Festival of Lights**. During this **5-day celebration**, families light thousands of candles and oil lamps called **diyas** to welcome good luck and chase away darkness. People exchange sweets, wear new clothes, and fireworks light up the sky.

In many countries, **Christmas** celebrates the birth of Jesus. In **Germany**, families enjoy **Christmas markets** selling decorations and warm drinks. In **Mexico**, people celebrate **Las Posadas** with parades and special food.

Eid al-Fitr is celebrated by **Muslims** worldwide. After a month of fasting called **Ramadan**, families gather for meals, wear fancy clothes, and give gifts to children. It's a time for forgiveness and celebration.

Think of it like how you might have a special meal and give presents on your birthday—except Eid happens on the same day for millions of people across the world!

Cultural and Historical Festivals

Some festivals celebrate history or culture. **China's Lunar New Year** happens when the moon changes—usually between **January and February**. People clean their

homes, eat special foods like dumplings, and the **Dragon Dance** parades through streets with giant colourful dragons.

Spain's La Tomatina is wild: tens of thousands of people have a massive tomato fight! **Japan's Hanami Festival** celebrates cherry blossom trees blooming in spring, with picnics and decorations.

Why Festivals Matter

Festivals help people feel connected to their **identity** and **community**. They let us learn about different cultures and see what's important to people in other countries. Whether it's music, food, lights, or parades, festivals show us that humans everywhere love to celebrate together—even if our traditions are completely different!