

Lesson Plan: “Festivals and Celebrations”

Objective:

Students will improve their English language skills (reading, speaking, listening, and writing) through the exploration of global festivals and celebrations.

Materials Needed:

- Projector/Smartboard
- Internet access for videos
- Worksheets and handouts
- Markers and chart paper

Lesson Duration: 3 hours (with breaks as needed)

Lesson Outline:

1. Warm-Up (15 minutes)

Activity: Festival Brainstorming

- Students work in pairs to list as many festivals and celebrations as they can from different cultures around the world.
- After 5 minutes, groups share their lists. Write the festivals on the board and categorize them by type (e.g., religious, cultural, national).
- Discuss briefly why people celebrate and the common elements of festivals.

2. Vocabulary Introduction (8 minutes)

Activity: Festival Vocabulary Matching

- Distribute a worksheet with vocabulary related to festivals (e.g., parade, costume, tradition, fireworks, feast).
- Students match the vocabulary with definitions or pictures.
- Go over the answers as a class and discuss any unfamiliar terms.

KEY

Vocabulary Word	Definition
Parade	A public procession with music and floats.
Costume	Special clothing worn during a festival.
Tradition	A custom passed down through generations.
Fireworks	Explosive devices for colorful displays.
Feast	A large meal prepared for a celebration.
Lantern	A decorative light source used at night.
Ritual	Actions performed as part of a ceremony.
Ceremony	A formal event with specific customs.

Banner	A large sign displayed during festivals.
Confetti	Small colored paper pieces thrown for fun.

Follow-Up Activity (10 minutes):

- Have students choose 3-4 vocabulary words and create sentences or a short story involving a festival using those words.
- Students can share their sentences or stories with the class or in small groups.

3. Listening Activity (30 minutes)

Activity: Listening to Festival Descriptions

Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IM_knhDTCGU

- Play the video of people describing their favourite festivals
- Students complete a worksheet with comprehension questions based on the video.
- Review answers and discuss the unique features of each festival mentioned.

KEY

1. Festivals mentioned: Christmas, Guy Fawkes Night, New Year, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day.
2. First speaker's Christmas celebration: They celebrate at their parents' house with their parents, sister, her husband, nephew, and niece. They open presents, help prepare Christmas lunch, open more presents, and then play games or go for a walk.
3. Second speaker on Guy Fawkes Night: They watch a fireworks display at a local park and enjoy a big bonfire with friends.
4. Third speaker on New Year: They celebrate with friends at a party, count down to midnight, and sing "Auld Lang Syne."
5. Fourth speaker's Easter morning: They hide chocolate eggs in the garden for the children to find, and later have a large dinner with the family.
6. Fifth speaker on Mother's Day: The speaker's husband and daughter make all the meals, buy flowers, and the family plays games together.
7. Father's Day: The speaker's dad's birthday is close to Father's Day, so they buy him a card and present, and go to a nice restaurant for a meal.

Exercise 2: True or False - Answers

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. True

Exercise 3: Fill in the Blanks - Answers

1. We open **presents** in the morning and then help prepare the **Christmas** lunch.
2. We watch a **fireworks** display at a local park during Guy Fawkes Night.
3. On New Year's Eve, we count the seconds until **twelve** o'clock when the new year begins.
4. On Easter, we hide chocolate **eggs** in the garden for the **children** to find.
5. On Mother's Day, I can just **relax** while my husband and daughter make all the **meals**.

6. For Father's Day, we usually go to a nice **restaurant** for a meal.

4. Reading Activity (30 minutes)

Activity: Article on a Festival

Students read an article about Christmas festival around the world

After reading, they answer comprehension questions and complete a worksheet on the article's main ideas and details.

Discuss the cultural significance of the festival and how it compares to festivals in their own culture.

KEY

1. Christmas celebrations in Mexico begin on December 16th with "Las Posadas."
2. Traditional foods include roast turkey, ham, and pies.
3. The Advent calendar allows children to open a door each day in December to find a small gift or chocolate, counting down to Christmas.
4. In Japan, Christmas is celebrated with a focus on happiness and romance, often involving special dates for couples, fried chicken, and Christmas cake.
5. Australians celebrate Christmas outdoors because it falls during the summer, making beach outings and barbecues popular activities.

Exercise 2: True or False - Answers

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True

Exercise 3: Matching - Answers

Country

Tradition

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. United States | e. Santa Claus fills stockings hung by the fireplace with gifts. |
| 2. Mexico. | d. "Las Posadas" processions reenact Mary and Joseph's search for shelter. |
| 3. Germany | c. Children open a door on an Advent calendar each day in December. |
| 4. Japan | a. Couples go on special dates on Christmas Eve. |
| 5. Australia | b. Families often have barbecues or go to the beach on Christmas Day. |

Exercise 4: Vocabulary in Context - Answers

In Mexico, "Las Posadas" is a nightly **procession** that reenacts Mary and Joseph's search for shelter.

Christmas **markets** in Germany are famous for their festive stalls and handmade crafts.

In Japan, Christmas is more about **romance** than a religious celebration.

In the United States, families often have a large **feast** on Christmas Day.

Australians have unique Christmas **traditions** like "Carols by Candlelight" and beach gatherings.

5. Speaking Activity (30 minutes)

Activity: Group Discussion on Festivals

In small groups, students choose a festival from their culture or one they find interesting.

They discuss the festival's history, customs, and significance using guiding questions.

Each group presents their chosen festival to the class.

6. Presentation (20 minutes)

Activity: Festival Presentations

- Students present their festival to the class. Encourage them to use the vocabulary and concepts discussed earlier.
- Classmates ask questions and give feedback.

7. Wrap-Up and Reflection (15 minutes)

Activity: Exit Ticket

- Students write a short reflection on what they learned about festivals and how festivals help us understand different cultures.
- Collect responses and close with a brief discussion on the importance of cultural awareness.