
Central idea:

Culture is represented by celebrations that express diversity within our global community.

LOI-1: Significance of different celebrations

What is Culture:

- Culture is how people in a region live, think and behave.
- It is a pattern of behaviour shared by a society, or group of people.
- Many different things make up a society's culture like food, language, clothing, tools, music, arts, customs, beliefs, and religions.
- People all around need to understand and learn to appreciate other cultures, and celebrating cultures is one way to accomplish that.
- Through each other's diversity, we become more aware of our own.
- Learning about other cultures helps us understand different perspectives within the world in which we live.

Every festival has a mythological story behind its celebration.

INDIA

Bathukamma

Once upon a time there was a King named Dharmangada who largely ruled over South India. His wife gave birth to a girl child after many years of rituals and prayer. She was named as Princess Lakshmi. During Baby Lakshmi's brought up she survived many unforeseen accidents. Later they named their daughter as Bathukamma. According to the Telugu language, Bathuku means life and Amma means a female names and mother.

Diwali

It is believed that on this day Lord Rama, along with his wife Sita and brother Lakshman was returning to his hometown Ayodhya after 14 long years of exile in the forest. He had just finished battling and overcoming the fierce demon king Ravana, who had abducted Sita. The people of Ayodhya lit lamps in every home to welcome their true King. They danced and made merry and lit firecrackers to express their joy over his return.

USA

Halloween

Halloween is a holiday celebrated each year on October 31. The tradition originated with the ancient festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns.

Christmas

Christmas is celebrated to remember the birth of Jesus Christ; who Christians believe is the Son of God. The name 'Christmas' comes from the Mass of Christ. A Mass service is where Christians remember that Jesus died for us and then came back to life. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends and, of course, waiting for Santa Claus to arrive.

Nepal

Dashain

Dashain is one of the triumph stories according to the Hindu mythology. It is a victory over an evil spirited demon named “Mahisasur” who spread horror and terror. This demon was killed by the Goddess Durga in a war that lasted for multiple days. The Goddess Durga is worshiped for resonating the power. Her win over the demon also signifies that evil cannot win and it always comes to cease.

Fagun Purnima or Holi

Holi, Hori or Faguwa is among the most vibrant festivals of Nepal. This day is marked to celebrate the death of Holika, the demon who tried to kill Vishnu. This is celebrated for two days in Nepal: Fagu Purnima on the first day and Holi on the second day. People celebrate Holi with dry colours, water sprays, water guns and balloons.

CHINA

Chinese new year:

It is a spring festival which lasts for 15 days. According to Chinese Mythology, the celebration first started when a small village used the noise of firecrackers and drums to scare off monsters. The colour red is also popular as it was used to scare off the monsters.

Lantern festival:

It is the last day of the spring festival. This festival first came during the Han dynasty. Lanterns were lit in honour of Buddha. The lanterns can symbolize the people letting go of their past selves and getting new ones, which they will let go of the next year. Other traditions on this day include guessing riddles, eating rice dumplings, the lion dance and the dragon dance.

LOI-2: Connections between celebrations across cultures

Different cultures share the symbols in their festivals. Christians light candles on Christmas and Hindus do the same for Diwali. People dressing up in traditional costumes and sharing meals together are popular festive activities in many parts of the world. There are many similarities and differences between various festivals and celebrations.

Chinese New Year	US New Year
1.They celebrate for 15 days that starts on 1st of January. 1.They give money in red envelopes as a tradition of goodwill. 3.They eat noodles and dim sums with friends and relatives. 4.They enjoy dancing and singing the whole night.	1.They celebrate only on the 1st of January. 2.They usually do not exchange any gift in New year. 3.They will usually eat cake and cookies on New year. 4.They also enjoy dancing and singing the whole night.

<u>Diwali</u>	<u>Lantern festival</u>
1.It is mostly celebrated in India. 2.People decorate their house with diyas and lights. 3.They will have firecrackers to celebrate this festival.	1.It is mostly celebrated in China. 2.People decorate their house with lanterns. 3.They will also have fireworks light up the sky.

<u>Holi</u>	<u>La Tomatina</u>
<p>1.It is mostly celebrated in India.</p> <p>2. People play with water colours and dry colour powder.</p> <p>3.They enjoy drinking lassi and eating ladoos.</p> <p>4.They do celebrate it during the day time.</p>	<p>1.It is mostly celebrated in Spain.</p> <p>2.People throw tomatoes on each other and celebrate the day.</p> <p>3.They do a paella (a Spanish rice dish) cooking contest.</p> <p>4.They also celebrate it during the day time.</p>

<u>Halloween</u>	<u>Day of dead</u>
<p>1.Halloween is a celebration observed in several countries on 31 October.</p> <p>2. People dress up in costumes and telling tales of witches and ghosts. Pumpkins are carved into glowing jack-o'-lanterns.</p> <p>Children parade from house to house, knocking on doors and calling out "Trick or treat!" hoping to have their bags filled with candy.</p>	<p>1.The Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday celebrated throughout Mexico on 2nd November.</p> <p>2.People do prayers to welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for a brief reunion that includes food, drink and celebration.</p>

LOI-3: The way people express through celebrations

- Festivals and feasts are special times where people come together and celebrate.
- Most of these celebrations are to do with religion and beliefs. Special events in a country's history (National festivals) or the changing seasons (Harvest festivals) are also celebrated.
- Singing and exchanging gifts, digging new types of music, new foods, new ideas and new kind of expressing love are popular rituals and often part of an annual festival.

Nepal

- Buddha Jayanti is celebrated widely in Nepal as birth anniversary of the Gautam Buddha. On this day people parade and monks, nuns and followers read prayers and tell the moral and life story of Lord Buddha. People donate by their will to show their generosity.
- **Dashain is celebrated** with great rejoice, and goddess Durga is worshiped throughout the kingdom as the divine mother goddess. In preparation for **Dashain** every home is cleansed and beautifully decorated, painted as an invitation to the mother goddess, so that she may visit and bless the house with good fortune.



China

- Chinese New Year's Day falls on the first day of the first lunar month. Golden fish become symbols of wealth. People buy lots of food, cooking ingredients, presents, clothes and even jewellery for the coming New Year. Young people give elders warm greetings, and in return usually receive lucky red envelopes.
- The **Lantern Festival** marks the final day of the traditional Chinese New Year. **Celebrations** include lion and dragon dances, parades, and fireworks. Small glutinous rice balls filled with fruits and nuts tangyuan, are eaten during the **festival**.



USA

- Thanksgiving is celebrated in November. It is a national Holiday where people get together to share the traditional dinner of Turkey and pumpkin pie.
- Halloween is celebrated on 31st October, the night before All Saints day. Typical festive activities include trick-or-treating, dressing up in costumes, carving jack-o'-lanterns and lighting bonfires. Lighting candles and putting them inside frightening pumpkin faces scares away evil spirits at Halloween.



INDIA

- The most important religious festivals such as Christmas, Diwali, Eid al-Fitr serve to mark out the year. Others, such as harvest festivals, celebrate seasonal changes like Pongal and Onam.
- Diwali is celebrated by people around the world during the month of November. People wear their finest clothes, illuminate their homes with *diyas* and *rangoli*, perform worship ceremonies of Lakshmi, light fireworks, and share gifts and sweets.
- Holi, also known as the festival of colours, is one of the famous festivals of India.



SPAIN

- La Tomatina: This festival is held on the last Wednesday of August in Spain.
- Tens of thousands of participants come from all over the world to fight in a harmless battle where more than one hundred metric tons of over-ripe tomatoes are thrown in the streets.
- It was created after two men, in political protest, began throwing tomatoes at many people and places, and continues to this day.

