

# Year 7 Religious Education – Term 3 Festivals

## What is a Festival?

A festival is a time of celebration that follows the same pattern every time it happens. Lots of religions have celebrations for a number of different things. Normally this is to remember something important that happened in history or a religious story.

### Christmas



- Christmas is a Christian festival that remembers the birth of Jesus.
- It is celebrated on the 25th December every year/
- Christians spend time together as a family and give gifts to celebrate this holiday
- There is also a special church service held at midnight to celebrate Christmas

### Easter



- Easter is a Christian festival that remembers the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- It is celebrated in March or April every year. In the 40 days leading up to Easter Christians usually try to give something up to remember how Jesus suffered.
- Easter is celebrated with church services and by the giving of eggs. Easter eggs can either be chocolate eggs or chicken eggs that have been decorated

### Dia De Los Muertos



- Day of the Dead is a festival celebrated in Mexico and other Spanish speaking countries.
- It is used to remember loved ones, family and friends who have passed away
- In their houses, people create *ofrendas* that are covered in flowers, candles and pictures of loved ones
- People will often eat a favourite meal of somebody who has passed away.
- They will also wear skull masks that are unique to every individual

### Passover



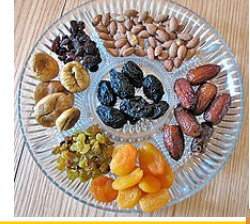
- Passover is Jewish festival that celebrates the story of when Moses freed the Jews from slavery in Egypt.
- Since Moses is one of the most important people in Judaism, this is one of the most important festivals.
- During this time Jewish people remember the story of the Exodus together as a family, then they eat a meal where each part of the dish remembers a part of the story.

### Diwali



- Diwali is a Hindu festival also known as the 'Festival of Lights'. It is dedicated to Lakshmi the Goddess of Wealth.
- Diwali happens over 5 days with each day being bigger and better than the one before it.
- During Diwali houses are decorated with oil lamps, fireworks are lit, families have feasts together and sweets are given out.
- Diwali is also celebrated by Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains

### Ramadan



- Ramadan is a Muslim festival that encourages people to fast (not eat or drink) during the day for a month.
- The reason Muslims do not eat or drink in this time is to remind them of the suffering of people who are less fortunate than they are.
- During Ramadan Muslims are encouraged to pray often and to be charitable
- Eid-AL-Fitr comes at the end of Ramadan. This is a large party where Muslims celebrate the end of the holy month

### Christians Celebrate

- Christmas
- Easter

### Muslims Celebrate

- Eid-Al-Adha
- Eid-Al-Fitr
- Ashura
- Ramadan

### Jews Celebrate

- Passover
- Shavuot
- Rosh Hashanah
- Yom Kippur
- Hannukah

### Buddhists Celebrate

- Diwali
- Wesak

### Hindus Celebrate

- Diwali
- Holi
- Maha Shivarati

### Sikh's Celebrate

- Vaisakhi
- Guru Nanak Gurpurab
- Maghi

# Year 7 Religious Education – Term 3 Check

## Comprehension Questions

1. Which two festivals are celebrated by Christians?
2. What similarities are there between Diwali and Christmas?
3. Why do Muslims fast during Ramadan?
4. Which 4 religions celebrate Diwali?
5. What story does Passover remember?
6. What is one way that Dia De Los Muertos is celebrated?
7. What do some Christians do in the 40 days before Easter?
8. What festival comes at the end of Ramadan?

## Research Task

Research a festival that we have not studied this term.

Create an A4 poster containing information and pictures about this festival. Try to include:

1. Who celebrates this festival? What groups?
2. Why they celebrate it? Does it remember a story or a person?
3. How they celebrate it? How long does it last for?

Some Examples: Guru Nanak Gurpurab, Wesak or Holi

## Poster Task

Create a poster advertising one of the festivals we have studied.

Remember to include who will be celebrating and how they will be celebrating