

RE - Why are festivals important to religious communities?

Key Vocabulary

Christmas	The Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus.
Diwali	India's most important celebration of the year. Its name comes from the row (avali) of clay lamps (deepa) that are lit outside homes to symbolise the inner light which protects from spiritual darkness.
Easter	A Christian festival commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
Eid	Eid- al - Fitr is the most important date on the Islamic calendar. It celebrates the successful completion of the fasting month Ramadam.
Harvest	Christians use the Harvest festival to think about how God loves the world and cares for it. They also show they are followers of Jesus by giving food to those who are less fortunate.
Pentecost	A Christian festival celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension. It is held on the seventh Sunday after Easter.
Passover	A major Jewish holiday that celebrates the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.
Rosh Hashanah	A special festival which celebrates Jewish New Year.
Yom Kippur	The holiest day in the Jewish calendar. Jews observe the day with a day-long fast, confession and intensive praying.

Have a think ...

Can you retell any of the stories which link to these festivals?



Christmas



Diwali



Easter



Eid



Pentecost



Harvest



Rosh Hashanah



Passover



Yom Kippur

Sequence of Learning:

Why are festivals important to religious communities?

1. What is worth celebrating?

2. What do Christians celebrate at Easter?

3. Why is Diwali significant to Hindus?

4. Why do Muslims celebrate at the end of Ramadan?

5. Why do Jewish people celebrate Pesach every year?

6. What can we learn from celebrations and festivals?