

 Key Concepts

In this lesson, we will learn about:

- Importance of Festivals
- National Festivals
- Religious Festivals
- Harvest Festivals
- Festivals of North-East
- Changes in Local Celebrations



Warm-Up

Inference

One sunny afternoon, three friends named Jaspreet, Hema, and Iqbal gathered at Jaspreet's house to start their exploration. Jaspreet's grandmother, *Amma*, was there to help them understand the significance of each festival.

Jaspreet asked, "*Amma*, which is the first national festival of the year?"

Amma smiled and said, "The first national festival is **Republic Day**. On **26th January, 1950** India became a republic."

Hema added, "I love watching the colourful parades and the marching bands on Republic Day!"

Iqbal, asked, "What comes after Republic Day?"



Amma replied, "After Republic Day, we celebrate **Independence Day** on **August 15th**. It's the day when India gained freedom from British rule."

Excitedly, Jaspreet added, "On Independence Day, we fly kites and see the tricolour flag everywhere!"

Hema then asked,

Pongal

Pongal is the harvest festival of **Tamil Nadu**. It is celebrated for three days.

On the first day, the Rain-God is worshipped, on the second day, the Sun-God is worshipped, and on the third day the cattle is worshipped. Special Pongal rice is prepared. In Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, this festival is called Sankranti. It marks the change of season from winter to summer.

Onam

Onam marks the celebration of harvest season in **Kerala**. Special dishes are prepared and served on banana leaves. Snake-boat races are one of the highlights of Onam. Girls and women prepare a flower mat at the entrance of the temple or house.



Onam

Elephants are decorated and colourful processions of elephants are taken out.

Baisakhi

It is celebrated on **13th April** every year. This festival is mainly celebrated in North India, particularly in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.



Rejuggle

Mental Development

Rearrange the words correctly:

1. H R U C H C

Church

2. S A H D E U S R

Dussehra



CODE-ReUD

Festivals of North-East

Wangala festival of Meghalaya is associated with jhuming, or shifting cultivation. Its celebration is held at the Rongram Development Block in Asanang. It is also known as Hundred Drums Festival because dancers with 100 drums participate in it.

Shifting cultivation: a form of Primitive agriculture.

Baisakhi Celebration



Hornbill festival of Nagaland is celebrated from first December to tenth December every year. It is held at Naga Heritage Complex in Kisama. All the 16 **tribes** of Nagaland participate in it. During this festival, the whole Naga culture is colourfully displayed.



Chapchar Kut is a spring festival of Mizoram. People wear colourful costumes, distinctive headgears and jewellery. They perform various folk dances.



Changes in Local Celebrations

Diwali, the festival of lights, was just around the corner, but Jaya was sad because her beloved grandparents and uncle and aunt lived far away in a distant city. However, her parents had a wonderful surprise for her. They set up a video call with her grandparents



Think and Do

Remembered Perception

1. Holi is the festival of colours.
2. The birthday of Lord Buddha is celebrated as Gurupurab.
Yes ☐ No ☒
3. Snake-boat race is related to which harvest festival?
..... Kerala



Sense of duty

We should celebrate festivals together. They develop a feeling of love and brotherhood. Organise a Unity Day event where students wear clothes representing various cultures and participate in activities that promote unity and respect.



Tribe: a group of people of the same race language and customs



CODE-85Mi

Analogy

and relatives so they could all celebrate together, even from afar. They shared stories, laughter, and even lit virtual *diyas* together.

There was a young boy named Ajay who loved celebrating Holi, the colourful festival of joy. However, this year, he decided to do something different. With a deep concern for the environment and a belief in conserving water, Ajay planned to celebrate Holi without water balloons and water guns. Instead, he encouraged everyone to use eco-friendly herbal colours made from natural ingredients.



- In the given two stories, what change have you noticed in the celebration of the festivals?
- How do you celebrate festivals?
- Is there any change in the ways you used to celebrate the festivals? If yes, discuss those changes with your classmates.



Things I have learnt

- The main national festivals are : Independence Day, Republic Day and Gandhi Jayanti.
- Festivals, which are connected with religions, are called religious festivals.
- The important religious festivals are: Diwali, Holi, Christmas, Eid and Gurupurab.
- The important harvest festivals are: Bihu, Pongal, Onam and Baisakhi.



Think and answer

A. Answer the following questions orally.

- Which is the festival in Meghalaya associated with jhuming cultivation? *Wangala*
- Onam is the harvest festival of which Indian state? *Kerala*
- Where is Kartavyapath located? *New Delhi*

Communication

B. Tick (✓) the correct answers.

1. Which of these is a national festival?
☒ a. Independence Day b. Bihu c. Diwali
2. Which of these is a religious festival?
a. Pongal ☒ b. Eid c. Republic Day
3. Which of these is a harvest festival?
a. Dussehra b. Gurupurab ☒ c. Baisakhi
4. Which of these is the harvest festival of Kerala?
a. Pongal ☒ b. Onam c. Bihu

C. Fill in the blanks. Choose words from the box.

Bapu

national

Red Fort

1. A national festival is a festival celebrated by the whole country.
2. Independence Day is celebrated at Red Fort in Delhi.
3. Mahatma Gandhi is also known as Bapu.

D. Answer these questions.

1. When did India become a republic?
2. How do we celebrate Christmas?
3. What is the difference between religious and national festivals?
4. Why do we celebrate festivals?
5. Some people burst firecrackers on Diwali. How does it harm the environment?

VALUE BASED QUESTION

HOTS

E. Case Study Based Question.

Festivals are all about happiness, ceremonies, and joy. But they also have a downside: pollution—air, water, soil, and noise. To understand how much people know about this pollution, scholars from a respected university in India conducted a study. They called this study "Awareness towards the Impact of Festivals on Ecology."

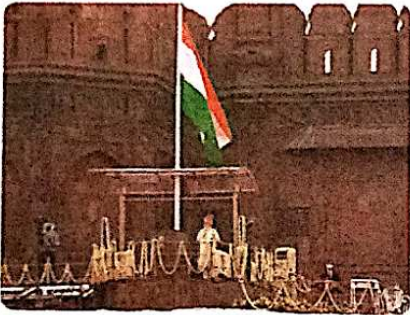
1. What are festivals primarily associated with?
a. Pollution b. Sadness c. Happiness and joy
2. What types of pollution are mentioned in the passage related to festivals?
a. Air, fire, and noise b. Water, fire, and soil
c. Air, water, soil, and noise
3. Why did scholars from a university in India conduct a study?
a. To find out the best festival celebrations b. To measure the popularity of festivals
c. To assess people's awareness of ecological pollution during festivals



Do and learn

F. Read the descriptions and identify the festivals.

WHICH FESTIVAL AM I?



1. On this day the Prime Minister of our country hoists national flag at the Red Fort.

Independence Day

2. It is a three-day harvest festival of Tamil Nadu in which cattle are worshipped.

Pongal



3. These festivals are celebrated by an entire nation and encourage unity in the country.

National Festivals



Life skills

Tick (✓) the safety measures you take on Diwali.

- ▶ Bursting crackers in groups.
- ▶ Lighting diyas away from things likely to catch fire.
- ▶ Not bursting 'dangerous' crackers meant only for adults.
- ▶ Not playing with electrical fittings.
- ▶ Putting on only light cotton clothes.



Beyond the Book

Creativity

Organise a festival exhibition in the school where students can display their festival-related artworks and crafts for others to admire.

