

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

Learning outcomes

By the end of this chapter, you will be able to:

- explain what celebrations and festivals are
- describe some popular religious and harvest festivals and the national holidays (students to be asked to describe personal experiences through an activity)
- describe the different ways in which people celebrate festivals, how these have changed over time, and how these activities are different in urban and rural areas (ask students to describe personal experiences as an activity)

Resources needed

- Course Book
- Outline maps of India.
- Pictures of harvest festivals of India.

Session plan at a glance

Session plan at a glance	
Session 1	Session 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete the dive in activity. Discuss the drawings and introduce the topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain what celebrations and festivals are.
Session 3	Session 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Divide the class into groups. ● Complete the activity time. ● Make the students read Ant Bytes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describe some popular religious and harvest festivals.
Sessions 5	Session 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss the three most important national holidays. Talk about other important national days which are the birthdays of a few leaders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describe the different ways in which people celebrate festivals, how these have changed over time, and how these activities are different in urban and rural areas.
Sessions 7	Session 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Answering the exercises under Reflect and learn. Question Bank and worksheet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete Think and answer, Do and learn and A step further.

Teaching Guidelines:

Session 1

- Explain the dive in activity. Talk about their favourite festival and national day. Instruct them to think about the festival and draw what they like the most about this festival. For example kites, lamps, rangolis, crackers, candles etc. They then have to share with the class why they that particular picture.

Session 2

- Explain what celebrations and festivals are. Draw their attention to the pictures in the course book. They have to study the picture closely and answer the questions: What is the picture about? Is it a small gathering or a large one? Where do you think they are? House? Party hall? Gather answers from them and then write on the board. It appears to be a small birthday party. It consists of only members of the family and few friends. It is a private party. They are showing their enjoyment of a special day. They are celebrating. On the other hand, if a large group of people from an area or community, celebrate a day or many days by praying together, exchanging gifts and singing and dancing then it is a festival common to all.

Session 3

- Divide the class into groups. Complete the activity given under 'activity time'. Make the students read Ant Bytes. Ask the students to name a few religious and national festivals. Keep the students working in groups, each group has to write 4–5 sentences about each picture. Why is it celebrated, what do they eat, what do they wear and where do they go? They can use colourful pictures to decorate their work. Help them to organize their work on the display board in the class.

Session 4

- Explain harvest through pictures and videos. Ask them to name the festivals they are seeing. Bring a chart of harvest festivals of India. Talk about how harvest festivals are celebrated in different parts of India. On an outline map of India paste the pictures of harvest festivals. Make sets of outline map of India and pictures of the harvest festivals and ask the students to paste them in their correct places (States). Students continue to work in their groups.

Sessions 5

- Discuss the three most important national holidays. Talk about other important national days which are the birthdays of important leaders. Share pictures of the leaders. Encourage the students to watch Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations telecast on TV. Point out how the entire nation participates in the festival. Draw their attention to the parade; point out the floats showing the different cultures and traditions, dress and art forms (Dance and music) of the different states of India. Play 'Vande Mataram' and teach a few lines of the song to the students. Explain the meaning of the song in simple words.

Sessions 6

- Guide the students to complete the activity on Independence Day celebrations at school in their groups. Add how it differed during their grandparent's time. Write what they tell you on a piece of paper and add it to their chart.

Sessions 7

- Answering the exercises under Reflect and learn. Question Bank and worksheet.

Sessions 8

- Encourage students to attempt the task given in **A step further**.

QUESTION BANK WITH ANSWER KEY

A time to celebrate

I. Fill in the blanks.

1. We show our enjoyment of a special day or time through _____ .
2. The festivals of India are _____ and lively.
3. The national song of India is _____ .
4. 5 September is the birth date of _____ .

Ans: 1. celebrations 2. colourful 3. 'Vande Mataram' 4. Shri Radhakrishnan

II. State whether the following statements are true or false.

1. Constitution is a set of rules according to which our country is ruled.
2. The process of gathering ripened crops from the field is called cutting.
3. We celebrate harvest festivals to honour the hard work done by the farmers.
4. Onam is a special day for all Indians and is celebrated by the entire country

Ans: 1. True 2. False (harvesting) 3. True 4. false (national days)

III. Answer the following.

1. On which day was the Constitution adopted in India?
2. For how long did the British occupy India?
3. Who was the first prime minister of India?
4. When is Gandhi Jayanti celebrated?

- Ans:** 1. The Constitution of India was adopted on 26 January 1950.
 2. The British ruled India for about 200 years.
 3. Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of India.
 4. Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated on 2 October every year.

STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY

A time to celebrate

I. Reflect and learn

Festivals	Why is it celebrated	Name of Special foods made	How are homes decorated	Fun activities
Makara Sankranti	It is a harvest festival celebrated by worshipping The Sun God 'Surya Dev' for success and prosperity.	Til Ladoo, Dhal vada, Kheer.	The entire house is cleaned and whitewashed. Image of the sun is drawn. Beautiful big rangoli adorn the entrance.	Fly kites, distribute Til gud, meet friends, and attend various competitions like kolam completion and tug of war.
Onam	Onam is a harvest festival which celebrates the return of the demon king Mahabali to earth from patala loka every year.	Pulissery, Avial, olan, Thoran kalan Payasam, inji puli	Pookolam, Hanging diyas and toran, decorating the aarthi thali	All of us meet to witness boat races, folk dance, pookolam competitions
Baisakhi	It is a celebration of the Sikh New Year. It also celebrates the formation of Khalsa Panth by The 10 th Sikh Guru Guru Gobind Singh Ji, It is also the harvest festival of the Sikhs.	Meethe peele chawal, dal makhani, kadi pakodi, sarson da sag, kada prasad	Hanging colourful drapes, using yellow green and red throws and cushions, lighting up the house, vibrant colourful rangolis.	Visiting Gurduwara, Praying, Taking part in langar, dancing bhangra and Gidda, watching processions
Nabanna	Nabanna celebrates the culmination of the harvest season. It symbolises the new beginning for the farmers of West Bengal and adjacent areas.	Pitha-puli, Payesh, Khir, Khoi, and Chira,	Bright curtains, lights and Alpana on floors and walls.	Attending shows of traditional folk dances. Wearing colourful clothes, meeting friends and visiting relatives.

- II. 1. Republic day 2. Gandhi Jayanti 3. Diwali 4. Makar sankranti 5. Onam.
- III. 1. Celebration is usually private like celebrating Birthday, wedding, success, engagement, or starting a new business. Festivals are public. Everyone takes part and a lot of events and competitions for the general public are held. people sing and dance together.
2. Harvest festivals are celebrated to offer gratitude for a good harvest and to honour the hard work of the farmers.
Most harvest festivals have some common elements, like decorating houses with rangoli or similar designs, worshipping the Sun God, Earth God and other deities, using newly harvested crops to cook special dishes, and holding community events with folk songs and dances.
3. The Republic day, The Independence day and Gandhi Jayanti are the three important national days. These days are marked by parades, speeches and cultural performances that help us to be united and be proud of our country.
4. I can help my family to clean and decorate the house. I can learn and draw rangoli. Wear traditional clothes and participate in all the activities.
(Accept other valid answers)

- IV. 1. It is a picture of a cow. Its horns are painted and adorned with ornaments and bells. It is decorated with colourful beads, bells, chains, flowers and also clothes on its back with colourful designs.
2. The cow is considered a sacred animal by different communities. Cows, oxen and bullocks (cattle) are decorated to show our gratitude for their help during harvest.

Do and learn

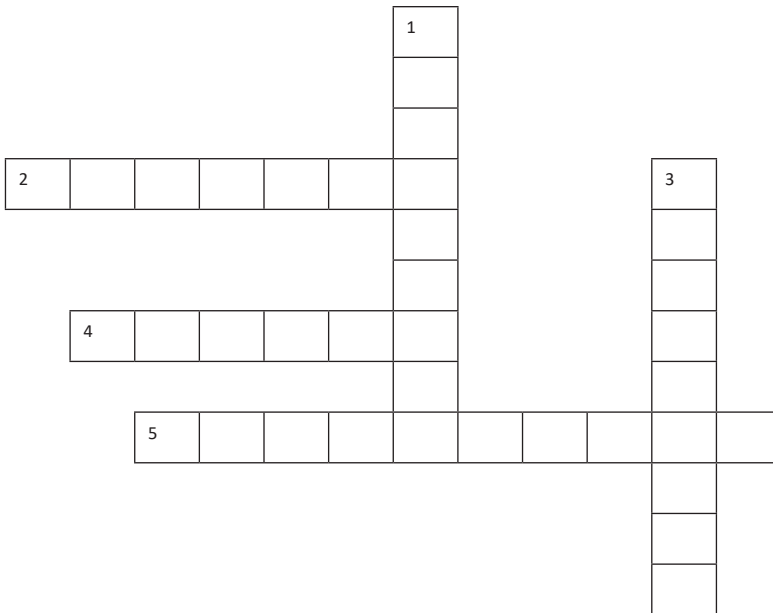
Let's sing and dance: Teach students traditional dances performed during harvest festivals. Discuss the costumes. Help them to acquire traditional costumes. Make arrangements for showcasing/or performing for an audience.

Find out: Share the website or article in a magazine/book on how Deepawali and Navratri are celebrated in the north and the south. Why do the celebrations differ? They can present their learning in the form of a skit or dance.

A step further: Organise a classroom debate/discussion on how to celebrate festivals without wasting food and spending a lot of money. Invite suggestions from students.

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

A. Crossword:



ACROSS

2. A special dish made with fresh vegetables on Makar Sankranti
4. Rangoli designs of West Bengal
5. Snake boat race

DOWN

1. A Sikh place of worship
3. Design made on the ground with flowers

B. Give one word for:

1. The way something has been done for a long time.
2. Special designs made using rice flour or rice paste.
3. Delicious sweet made using new rice.
4. Public display of a collection of objects of general interest.

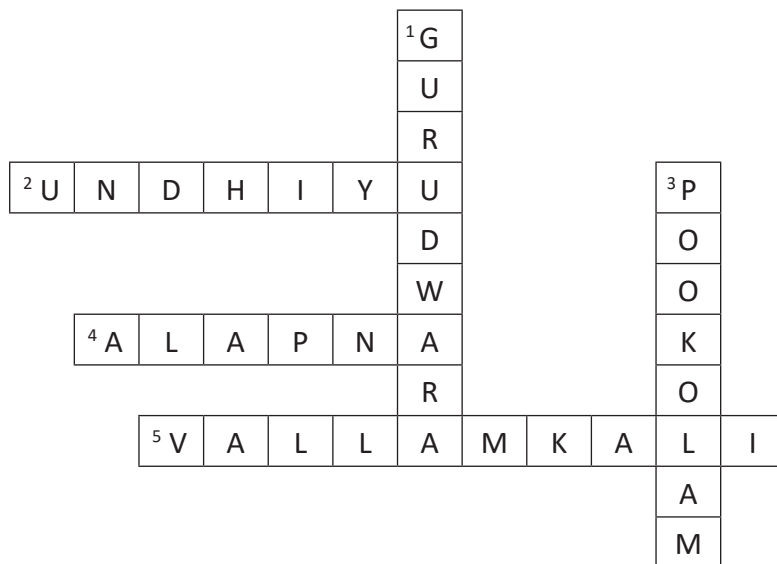
C. Answer the following:

1. Name the harvest festival celebrated by flying kites.
2. When did India become free from British Rule?
3. If you are watching a boat race called Vellamkali, which festival are you celebrating?
4. Whose birthday is celebrated as Children's Day?

Answer Key to the Worksheets

A time to celebrate

A. 1.



B. 1. traditional 2. kolam 3. kheer 4. exhibition

- C. 1. Kites are flown during Makara Sankranti.
2. India got its freedom on 15th August 1947.
3. I am celebrating Onam.
4. Chacha Nehru's birthday is celebrated as the children's day.