

Festivals from Around the World

Year 3 – Humanities and Social Sciences;
Health and Physical Education

(HASS; Yr 3, ACHASSI052)

Pose questions to investigate people, events, places and issues

(HASS; Yr 3, ACHASSK064)

Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, Anzac Day, and National Sorry Day) and the importance of symbols and emblems

(HASS; Yr 3, ACHASSK063)

How the community has changed and remained the same over time and the role that people of diverse backgrounds have played in the development and character of the local community

(HASS; Yr 3, ACHASSK065)

Celebrations and commemorations in places around the world (for example, Chinese New Year in countries of the Asia region, Bastille Day in France, Independence Day in the USA), including those that are observed in Australia (for example, Christmas Day, Diwali, Easter, Hanukkah, the Moon Festival and Ramadan)

(HASS; Yr 3, ACHASSK069)

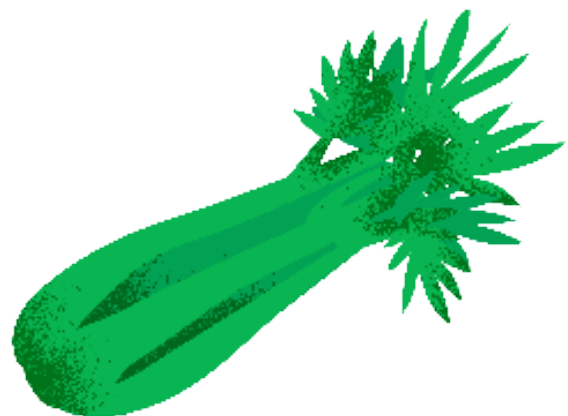
The similarities and differences between places in terms of their type of settlement, demographic characteristics and the lives of the people who live there, and people's perceptions of these places

(HPE; Yr 3, ACPPS042)

Research own heritage and cultural identities, and explore strategies to respect and value diversity

**Cross-curriculum
priority**

Asia and Australia's
involvement with Asia



Festivals from Around the World

Exploring feasts and foods, culture and celebrations

So many of the world's festivals involve celebrating the changing of the seasons. Festival foods and traditions help societies enrich their relationship with the world around them. This resource is a great way to travel with students through climates, seasons and cultures. The best bit is that you get to have a feast of your own at the end!

Equipment:

Books, magazines and websites about festivals from around the world – several are listed for you below under Resources

Art materials such as coloured paper, coloured pencils, marker pens, glue, scissors

Duration:

To start, 45 minutes, plus several sessions for research and planning the party

Location:

The classroom

Notes:

Getting Started

- Ask students to tell you about any festivals they have been to. These may be local, at the school, or might have been experienced on their travels.
- Discuss what the students recall. Was the festival colourful, exciting, noisy and/or fragrant? Was there a cultural or community significance?
- Ask students to think about Australia's past. Encourage them to talk about any historical books or movies they have liked or studies they have done.
- Discuss whether or not students think festivals were important to people in the past.
- What sort of festivals do students think happened in Australia's past? Make a list.
- Watch **The One with the Granita** What might the Super Naturals be celebrating? How can you tell? How do local festivals change once they have been adopted all over the world?

Historical Stories

- Below are link to three newspaper stories from the past. They've been dug up from the National Library of Australia's Trove database.
- Select which stories or photos you would like to explore with students. Read the stories out loud or look at the photos together.
- The first two stories are short accounts of Chinese New Year festivals in Australia. One is from 1896, the other is from 1931.
- The third story was written for a NSW newspaper in 1912. It details a man's journey to India and his experience of the Holi Festival. Discuss the culture shock he experienced. In what ways might his experience be different if he travelled to the Holi Festival today?
- The final resource is a collection of three photos of monks celebrating Songkran, the Thai New Year. They were taken in Sydney in 1999.
- After reading a story or two and/or looking at the photos, discuss any relevant questions, such as:
 - ◇ How did people celebrate this festival?
 - ◇ Who seems to have been there?
 - ◇ Where did it take place?
 - ◇ Does the narrator (who wrote the story) participate in the festival or not? How do you know?
 - ◇ What do you think the writer thought of the event?
- ◇ Is this festival celebrated in Australia today?
- ◇ After reading and discussing a story or looking at the selected photos together, demonstrate how to find a report or newspaper account of the same festival in Australia in 2015–18. (You can use Trove – be sure to tick the box limiting results to Australian content only, as this will help keep the results list more focused.)

Sources to read on Trove together:

- ◇ Chinese New Year – Monday, 17 February 1896 – The Advertiser, Adelaide: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/34537844?searchTerm=chinese%20new%20year&searchLimits=l-australian=y>
- ◇ Chinese New Year – Tuesday, 3 March 1931 – Darwin Times, Darwin: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/4532126?searchTerm=chinese%20new%20year&searchLimits=l-australian=y#>
- ◇ Holi – an account in the Maitland Daily Mercury, Tuesday 24 December 1912, NSW: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/121315285?searchTerm=holi&searchLimits=l-australian=y>
- ◇ Songkran – photos from April 1999 – Sydney: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/picture/result?q=songkran&l-australian=y>

Extension Activity

- When searching Trove you may find some old newspaper clippings have been scanned incompletely and need correcting. The class could correct a short article together. Ask students to direct you to change missing or incomplete words – it's surprisingly satisfying and students will enjoy contributing to real library records!

Festival Research

- With your assistance, students select a festival from anywhere in the world to research.
- Students create a mini book, presentation, poster or website covering:
 - ◇ the name of the festival (does it have more than one name?)
 - ◇ who celebrates it
 - ◇ what date it is celebrated (does it fall on the same date every year? Why/why not?)
 - ◇ some specific festival traditions, such as gifts or dances
 - ◇ what kinds of food, clothing or costumes and decorations are involved
 - ◇ whether or not this festival is celebrated in Australia today and, if so, where?
- Allow several sessions for students' research.
- Choose a festival, decorate the classroom, host a feast (students find recipes) and learn a song, dance or other part of the festival to celebrate.
- A short list of some world festivals is on the next page to get you started.

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Just a few fabulous world festivals

This is not even close to a complete list! If there's one thing all humans love, it's a party. Find out about other festivals represented by the cultures and nationalities in your community, or countries of interest. This list may give you some ideas!

Festivals marked with a * are based on a lunar calendar and the dates change each year.

Festival	Where celebrated?	Traditional date or season
New Year	Many cultures	January
Lunar New Year	China, and many other communities	January / February *
Australia Day	Australia	26 January
Groundhog Day	USA	2 February
Carnival / Carnevale	Brazil (Rio de Janeiro hosts the largest carnival in the world), Barbados, Bolivia, the Caribbean, Italy (Venice is famous), Portugal, Spain and many other places.	February/March – just before Lent
Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day / Mardi Gras / Fat Tuesday	Shrove Tuesday in Ireland, Britain and many Christian communities – Mardi Gras in carnival communities.	The day before Lent
Lent	Christian communities	February / March – 46 days before Easter Sunday
Holi	India	March *
Cherry Blossom Festival / Sakura	Japan	March / April – when the blossoms bloom!
Songkran	Thailand – Thai New Year	March / April
Passover	Jewish communities	March / April *
Easter	Christian communities	March / April *
ANZAC Day	Australia	25 April
Highland Games	Scotland	May
Feast of St Anthony	Portugal and many cultures	13 June
Midsummer	Sweden, Finland, Norway – and other countries	mid-summer – June in the Northern hemisphere
Tanabata	Japan	July / August
Ramadan and Eid-ul-fitr	Muslim communities	August *
Moon Festival	China	mid-autumn *
Diwali – the Festival of Light	India	October / November *
All Hallows' Eve / Hallow'een	Christian communities – Hallow'een in the USA, other communities	31 October
Thanksgiving	Canada and USA (different dates)	October / November
All Saint's Day	Christian communities	1 November
Day of the Dead	Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador	1-2 November
Loy Kratong / Yi Peng	Thailand	November *
Hanukkah	Jewish communities	November / December *
Christmas	Christian communities	25 December