

Celebrating the Feast

Year 3 – Humanities and Social Sciences
Years 3–8 – The Arts

(HASS – History; 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 – History; 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)

(The Arts – Dance; Yrs 5 & 6, ACADAR012)

Explain how the elements of dance and production elements communicate meaning by comparing dances from different social, cultural and historical contexts, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance

(The Arts – Media Arts; Yrs 3 & 4, ACAMAM060)

Plan, create and present media artworks for specific purposes with awareness of responsible media practice

(The Arts – Media Arts; Yrs 5 & 6, ACAMAM062)

Explore representations, characterisations and points of view of people in their community, including themselves, using settings, ideas, story principles and genre conventions in images, sounds and text

(The Arts – Media Arts; Yrs 5 & 6, ACAMAM063)

Develop skills with media technologies to shape space, time, movement and lighting within images, sounds and text

(The Arts – Media Arts; Yrs 7 & 8, ACAMAM068)

Develop and refine media production skills to shape the technical and symbolic elements of images, sounds and text for a specific purpose and meaning

(The Arts – Media Arts; Yrs 7 & 8, ACAMAM069)

Plan, structure and design media artworks that engage audiences

(The Arts – Visual Arts; Yrs 3 & 4, ACAVAR113)

Identify intended purposes and meanings of artworks using visual arts terminology to compare artworks, starting with visual artworks in Australia including visual artworks of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples



Celebrating the Feast

Exploring food festival art, dance, dining and games

All around the world, people celebrate special seasonal foods in great big festivals. In this lesson, students explore the elements that come together to make a rich festival tradition before proposing their own festival for a local food item. Roll out the parade wagons!

Equipment:

Internet access and a whiteboard or projector for exploring videos and images suggested in this unit

Art materials for posters, media artworks, maquettes and models – such as coloured paper, tissue paper, paint, coloured pencils, recycled art materials, small bamboo skewers or paper straws, glue and sticky tape

Duration:

25 minutes in the first session plus time thereafter to make artworks and models

Location:

The classroom or an art space

Notes:

Exploring food festivals

🎧 Listen to **Nomcast Episode 3 – Food Festivals: let’s tumble, splat and eat til we’re (literally) blue**



- ❓ Discuss the festivals students heard about in Nomcast Episode 3.
- There’s radish carving, tomato–slinging, cheese–rolling and more... here’s a short list of some of them with useful links for more info:
 - ◇ La Tomatina – a festival fight when squashy tomatoes take flight. <http://latomatina.info/en/la-tomatina/>
 - ◇ Chinchilla Melon Festival – Queensland’s ode to the round fruit. <http://www.melonfest.com.au/>
 - ◇ Night of the Radishes – artistic giant carved root veg. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Night_of_the_Radishes
 - ◇ Alresford Watercress Festival – celebration of the water greens. <https://www.watercressfestival.org/>
 - ◇ Bernese Onion Market, the Zilbermarit – a historical onion feast. <https://www.swissvistas.com/onion-market.html>
 - ◇ Blue Food Festival, Bloody Bay, Tobago – celebration of blue food, dasheen. <https://www.foodieexplorers.co.uk/event-blue-food-festival-tobago/>
 - ◇ Cooper’s Hill Cheese–Rolling and Wake – cheese rounds going downhill, fast. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooper%27s_Hill_Cheese-Rolling_and_Wake
- ❓ Discuss the possible meanings and origins of some of these festivals. Why did they start?
 - What do we know in general about WHY people celebrate specific food items in festivals?
 - What’s a festival for?
 - Why do festivals have such power over people?
 - Why do festivals keep going over hundreds of years?

Festival origins

Here are some suggestions about why people celebrate food festivals:

- Agricultural celebrations – party time celebrating significant moments in the seasonal farming year, such as planting or harvest (e.g. Harvest festival, Japanese rice planting festivals).
- Seasonal festivals – part religion, part tradition and plenty of deep mythology, seasonal changes are marked in many places by festivals that ask the sun to return, or try to ensure a good crop, or celebrate the changing of the seasons (e.g. Easter – a festival of rebirth originally held in spring, or the Japanese Sakura or cherry blossom festival).
- Economic/Agricultural festivals – celebrating the main produce of a region, elevating its importance and widely promoting its economic importance (e.g. Alresford watercress festival, Blue food festival, regional food festivals all over Australia).
- Historical event festivals – the ones that grew from a specific event or moment in time (e.g. the Bernese onion festival, or La Tomatina, celebrating a saucy food fight from the past!)
- ? Discuss other festivals students have witnessed, taken part in, or heard of. e.g. small towns in Australia have spud fests, budburst (wine) festivals, and seafood festivals abound in Australia. Brainstorm local and regional examples for each of these originating reasons.
- ? There are thousands of festivals around the world! Do most of them take their inspiration in one or more of the origins listed above? What other reasons do people have for creating a festival?

Going big with rice paper!

As a class, explore the giant rice paper parade floats called 'Nebuta' of the Aomori Nebuta Matsuri. These enormous painted rice paper constructions take a year to make and are paraded through the streets in summer, lit gently from inside so they glow like magic.

◇ Aomori Nebuta Matsuri: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/aomori-nebuta-festival>

Get students to research and tell you what happens at the Nebuta Matsuri. Like many festivals around the world, the Aomori Nebuta Matsuri includes: dancing, dress-ups and special costumes, games and shows of athletic prowess, parades, special artworks, fireworks and of course, feasts!

Compare images of Nebuta Matsuri floats to parade floats for a festival from a different culture.



Super celebration sports

In the Netherlands, a country criss-crossed with watery canals, farmers used to hop the canals using a pole and a big push – and whoosh, they're over. This useful sport is celebrated each year in the festival of Fierljeppen, or Canal Jumping.

Here's how it goes:

- ◇ Fierljeppen (video):
<https://youtu.be/YP32iWoqjnQ>

Explore other wild sports and games from festivals around the world.

Poster art inspiration

As a class, look at some of the vintage circus posters on the sites below. All of them are from before we had all-day video and audio, so they use every visual trick to grab the audience and promise excitement and fun. Barnum's Big Box of Vintage Poster Delights!

- ◇ Vintage Circus Posters (image search):
<https://www.google.com/search?q=vintage+circus+posters&tbm=isch&source=univ&client=firefox-b-d&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj1wdS0g9LhAhVGAXIKHWPpDREQsAR6BAglEAE&biw=1440&bih=720>
- ◇ Circus Posters: <https://museumoutlets.com/circus-posters>
- ◇ Vintage Posters (products, places, events and shows): <https://www.pictorem.com/profile/VINTAGE.POSTER>

Compare at least two posters to each other AND to a promotional poster for a modern festival. What elements are the same and what have changed

Five more food festivals

- ◇ Calabrian Peperoncino Festival, Diamante, Calabria, Italy - <https://discoveritaly.alitalia.com/en/au/destinations/lamezia-terme/peperoncino-festival-diamante>
- ◇ Clogherhead Prawn Festival, County Louth, Ireland - <http://www.ireland-guide.com/recipes/clogherhead-prawn-festival--co-louth.8290.html>
- ◇ Sagro del Fungo Porcino, the Porcini Mushroom Festival, Cortona, Italy - <https://youtu.be/sbAbPp2-fUw>
- ◇ Galway Oyster Festival, Ireland - <https://galwayoysterfestival.com/>
- ◇ Garlic and Harvest Festival, Bethlehem, Connecticut, USA - <http://www.garlicfestct.com/>

Gettin' festive

- Either let students choose a fruit or vegetable they would celebrate in a festival OR hand out slips of paper with local produce items and a wide selection of fruit and veg from your region (e.g. asparagus – pineapple – onion – apple). Something that's not already celebrated locally so that students can get creative in whipping up their own wild and creative feast.
- Give students time to explore their chosen or assigned food item. How could they propose the following:
 - ◇ a special dance and song (e.g. Blundstone boot dances or a spring/summer song)?
 - ◇ costumes – traditional, mythical or modern. Significant colours? Special hats?
 - ◇ games relating to their food item (e.g. asparagus spear throwing, onion bowling)?
 - ◇ parades – what would be in / on the floats?
 - ◇ festival menus! Very importantly – what's to eat?
- Provide time, resources and art materials to enable students to make their own festival models or maquettes. A worksheet on the next page may be of use to get students thinking about fun and wild ideas for their festival.
- Design process: show students how to use straws or short bamboo skewers and modelling clay to make a maquette or structure (form) over which they paste collaged or painted tissue paper to make a 'parade float' of their food item.
- Dance and meaning: explore dances from festivals of different cultures, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.
- Students display their festival plan, promotional posters, models, maquettes and menus in a festival of festivals display or exhibit for the school community.



Make your own festival.

Instant festival craze!

1

Insert a **noun** or **two nouns** here:

The Festival of _____ and _____ .

2

Add an **adjective**:

Brought to you by the _____ people of [Your school / town / region].

nouns / noun phrases:

[your food item]

autumn

colours

compost

harvest

lights

mud

ooze

planting

smells

spring

summer

winter

worms

adjectives:

athletic

creative

energetic

good

handsome

hat-wearing

mysterious

quirky

sensible

unusual

well-fed

witty

intriguing

3

Our GAMES will include:

_____ throwing/rolling/spitting.

_____ eating.

Jumping over the great big _____ .

More crazy games:

_____ and _____ !

Extra prizes for the best _____ .

Checklist

- Make a poster for your festival.
- Design a special menu.
- Make up or choose a song and dance to display.
- Design costumes – traditional or modern.
- Create a model or maquette of a giant parade float.