

1 Words.

The following words are an important part of culture. In pairs, complete the table by matching the words to the definitions and give some examples from Oman.

symbol

tradition

celebration

Word	Definition	Examples
	a party or joyful occasion which shows that an event is important	
	a picture, shape, object or person which has a special meaning	
	a belief or way of doing something which has existed for a long time	

2 Jigsaw reading.

Work in groups of four. You should each choose a different text from activity 1 on pages 12 and 13 of the Classbook. Answer the **two** questions below about **your text**. Write complete sentences. Then, close your Classbook and ask your group questions to find out the remaining six answers.

- a. Give two reasons why Umm Khalthoum became famous.

1

- b. How do we know that she was famous?

- a. What is well dressing?

2

- b. What do you need to dress a well?



3

a. Why does Khalsa think halwa is part of Omani culture?

b. Name five ingredients of halwa.

4

a. Why is the Statue of Liberty important to Americans?

b. Where did the Statue of Liberty come from?



A piece of my culture

1 Read and match.

ITC members from around the world have written about something which is important in their culture. In pairs, look at the pictures and match them to the e-mails. Write the number and letter in your exercise book.

and letter in your exercise book.



Dear ITC,

I'm writing to tell you that I think music can be an important part of culture.

I'm from Egypt where Umm Kalthoum has been a big influence. She was born into a poor family in 1904. When she was a child, her father, who was an imam at a local mosque, taught her religious chants. She was excellent at remembering long texts and she had a very strong voice. At first, **she sang to help the family** earn money. Soon, she became the greatest female singer of the twentieth century. Her most famous songs were 'Anta Omri' and 'Al Atfal'. She was known in Arabic as 'Kawkab Al-Sharq' or 'Star of the East' because she was a powerful symbol in the Middle East. She supported Arab traditions and culture and she became more than a musician, she became 'the voice and face of Egypt'. When she died in 1975, four million people honoured her by going out in the streets of Cairo for her funeral.

Amina

Source: almashriq.hiof.no/egypt/700/780/umKoultoum

1

Dear ITC,

I think traditions are an important part of different cultures.

I'm from Derbyshire in central Britain, where we have a special tradition called well dressing. In August and September, many villages celebrate the fact that there is a clean water supply in their village. The people living in the village decorate springs and wells with pictures made from living plants and flowers. First, they take a piece of wood and soak it in water for several days. Then, they cover the wood with mud and draw a design in it. Then, **people put flowers in the mud to make the picture** and put it in front of the well. Usually, a well dressing lasts about 7 days, but sometimes very **hot weather causes the flowers to die** because the mud dries out.

Best wishes,

Ben

Source: www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/ques



Dear ITC,

I think food is a very important part of culture. It is important because different people eat different things.

In Oman, halwa is an important part of our culture. It's important because **Omanis offer visitors halwa and coffee to show their hospitality**. In fact, whenever **there is a special event to celebrate**, we usually eat halwa. It is a delicious sweet made with water, sugar, ghee, wheat starch, rose water, cardamon, saffron and nuts. Traditionally, the ingredients are put in a large copper cooking pot and cooked over a wood fire for over two hours.

Halwa really is a symbol of our culture and our hospitality.

Best regards,

Khalsa

Source: 'Oman, People and Heritage', Oman Daily Observer, 1994





Hi,

I think **it's very important to remember** that art and symbols are a part of culture.

In 1876, the people of France gave the Statue of Liberty to the people of the United States to celebrate the USA's one hundredth birthday as an independent nation. The statue is nearly 100m tall and it is the first thing that many people go to see when they arrive in New York. It became a symbol of hope for thousands of people who arrived in America from Europe at the beginning of the century. In 1984, the United Nations made the Statue of Liberty a World Heritage Site. Today, the ideas of freedom, hope and international friendship are identified with the Statue of Liberty.

It's great to visit at any time of the year!

All the best,

Carl

Source: teacher.scholastic.com/researchtools/researchstarters/immigration

