READING

Monica's Halloween Party

Festivals Around the World

All around the world, people celebrate special dates with unique traditions. These festivals reflect culture, religion, and history. Here are some of the most famous celebrations from different countries.



In **Brazil**, one of the most popular events is **Carnival**. It happens every year in February or March, just before Lent. People wear colorful costumes, dance samba, and enjoy parades on the streets. The Carnival in Rio de Janeiro is world-famous.

In **India**, people celebrate **Diwali**, also known as the Festival of Lights. It usually takes place in October or November. Families decorate their homes with candles and lamps, exchange sweets, and enjoy fireworks. Diwali celebrates the victory of light over darkness.





In **Mexico**, **Día de los Muertos** (Day of the Dead) is an important holiday celebrated on November 1st and 2nd. It is a time to honor and remember loved ones who have died. Families build altars with photos, candles, food, and flowers, especially marigolds.

In the **United States**, **Thanksgiving** is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. Families and friends gather for a big meal, usually with turkey, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie. It's a moment to give thanks for the good things in life.



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In **China**, the **Lunar New Year** is one of the most important holidays. It usually takes place in January or February, depending on the lunar calendar. People clean their houses, give red envelopes with money, and enjoy fireworks and family dinners.

Each celebration is different, but they all bring people together to share happiness, traditions, and memories.



1. **Read each question and choose the correct answer: A, B, or C.**

A. What best explains the cultural significance of Carnival in Brazil?

A) It marks the beginning of the new year with dancing and fireworks.

B) It is a pre-Lenten festivity known for its lively parades and vibrant expression of joy.

C) It commemorates the discovery of Brazil with traditional food and music.

B. Why is Diwali often referred to as the "Festival of Lights"?

A) Because fireworks are prohibited and only candles are used.

B) Because it is celebrated during the longest night of the year.

C) Because homes and streets are illuminated to symbolize the victory of light over darkness.

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C. What makes Día de los Muertos different from most celebrations related to death?

A) It is a mourning event where people wear black and remain silent.

B) It focuses on celebrating the lives of those who passed, through colorful altars, offerings, and music.

C) It includes religious rituals similar to Christmas Eve.

D. Which statement about Thanksgiving best captures its main idea?

A) It is a holiday based solely on religious principles and church attendance.

B) It originated as a harvest festival and is now a time to reflect and share gratitude.

C) It is celebrated worldwide on the last Thursday of November with patriotic parades.

E. Why does the Chinese Lunar New Year not occur on the same day each year?

A) It is adjusted to align with international calendars for trade purposes.

B) It follows the lunar cycle, which differs from the solar calendar.

C) It rotates every five years according to the Chinese zodiac system.



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2. Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the box below. One word per blank. You may need to change the form slightly.

decorate - fireworks - parades - traditions - calendar -

thankful - lanterns - costumes

A. During Carnival, people wear colorful _____ and dance in the streets.

B. On Diwali, families _____ their homes with candles and small lamps.

C. Many celebrations include _____ at night that light up the sky.

D. Thanksgiving is a time when people feel _____ for their family and health.

E. The Lunar New Year date changes each year because it follows the lunar _____.

F. People in Mexico keep their cultural _____ alive through Día de los Muertos.



G. In some countries, people carry _____ during night parades or festivals.

H. Large _____ are common during festivals like Carnival or Chinese New Year.

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