



# FESTIVITIES

## 1. Spark up

Other holidays of this holiday season besides Christmas



Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday that's celebrated for eight days and nights, beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev. The Jewish calendar is based on the lunar cycle, so Hanukkah can fall anywhere from November 28th to December 26th.

## Hanukkah



In the United States, roughly five million people celebrate Kwanzaa each year! Kwanzaa is a seven-day holiday that celebrates African culture. It begins on December 26th and ends on January 1st.

## Kwanzaa



The Chinese New Year is celebrated for 15 days, beginning on the first day of the lunar new year. The 15th day of the new year is the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with a parade.

## Chinese New Year





## 2. Language exposure



Both ancient Greeks and Romans celebrated festivals, many of which were associated with political processes and social organization. One such festival was Saturnalia, which Romans organized in honor of the god Saturn. Saturnalia was traditionally celebrated with a sacrifice at the Temple of Saturn, followed by a public banquet and a carnival.

Another early festival was established by an ancient Egyptian pharaoh (leader) in order to celebrate his victory over the Libyans.

Considering the importance of food for every community, many festivals originate as agricultural ceremonies, initially organized to either celebrate a good harvest, or hope for it. In the Alps, for instance, the return of the cattle from the mountain is celebrated at the Almabtrieb festival.

Recently, the arts festivals took over all other kinds of festivals, as now every major city has at least one music festival, in addition to theater, literary, science and film festivals.

Nearly all modern festivals are not contained to the local community anymore, but are open for guests and tourists, who are expected to behave as the locals do and respect their traditions.



### 3. NEW VOCABULARY

#### English

#### Vietnamese

ancient (a) = of or from a long time ago, having lasted for a very long time

cổ đại, cổ xưa

celebrate a festival = to enjoy a festival

ăn mừng lễ hội

be associated with = be connected with

có liên quan/ mối liên hệ với

political process = the actions taken to achieve a political purpose

quá trình/ diễn biến chính trị

social organization = group of people in society

tổ chức xã hội

in honor of sb = to show respect for sb

thể hiện lòng tôn kính ai đó

sacrifice (n) = killing animal/human to offer to god

lễ tế động vật/ người cho thần linh

banquet (n) = a large meal for many people

yến tiệc

originate (v) = to come from

có nguồn gốc từ

take over = take control of/ replace

thay thế

be contained to = be limited

bị giới hạn, trong khuôn khổ

behave as the locals

cư xử như người dân địa phương





## PART 1

### Festivals

1. What is the most important festival in your country?
2. How do people celebrate festivals in your country?
3. What special food is associated with festivals in your country?
4. Which festival do you enjoy the most?

### Holidays

1. Do you like the holidays? Why/ Why not?
2. What is your favorite type of holiday?
3. What do you usually do on holidays?
4. Are there many tourists visiting your country in the holiday season?

## PART 2

### **Describe a festival that is important in your country**

You should say

when the festival occurs

what you do during it

what you like or dislike about it

and explain why this festival is important

## PART 3

1. What types of parties do people have, and why are parties important?
2. Why do you think some people like parties but others hate them?
3. Do you think festivals and celebrations are becoming more Americanised in your country? Why?
4. Are any old traditions related to particular times of the year in your country disappearing? Should anything be done about it?
5. What local festival in your area or country would be most interesting for a foreign guest, do you think?
6. Do you think any other festivals or celebrations in your country are over-commercialised or have lost their original meaning?