

# FESTIVALS

## TEACHERS' NOTES

Teachers should read all the instructions intended for pupils but may find the following of further use. Overall we do not believe in prescriptive resources so each teacher is free to adapt the project to their needs and those of their pupils. In order to benefit from the work of others and allow others to make use of your work, it is ideal if you can follow the majority of our sections in producing your project.

Once we begin to upload the links to these projects, you will be able to use them as part of any learning programme you have. The idea that others may be reading their work is a great motivation for pupils to carry out the projects.

## PARTICIPANTS

The project should be done by a group of pupils, where each group would tackle different festival types.

## DURATION

We would suggest a minimum of 2 introductory hour-long lessons to explain the project and split pupils into groups and work out a programme to do the work.

The work would need to be planned and spread over an academic year. Once the festivals have been decided upon, it would be an idea to make a diary note as to when each is being held. For personal festivals the pupils can undertake the work at home and then have a class discussion before writing up the details.

If the festival is outside of school hours, as most will surely be, pupils can be asked if anyone is attending or even asked to attend.

Once all festivals have been covered, pupils should get together to complete the project.

I fully understand that if started at the beginning of an academic year and pupils are going to have time to write up the final festivals, two months of the year may be missing. This is, as I see it, unavoidable.

## LESSON GUIDELINES

At the beginning the pupils should be presented with the project outline or it should be read to them. Emphasise the sections that we have suggested are covered. Make them aware that students all over the world will have the chance to read their work.

The first thing to do is to divide the pupils into groups.

Using the types of festivals given above, brainstorm what could go under each category. With some, such as carnivals or music festivals it will be necessary to research the date the festival is held in the year you are doing the project. Once this is done it is just a matter of deciding how to display the completed work and waiting till an event comes up.

# FESTIVALS

## FOR PUPILS

### AIMS

To tell people about social life in a given community.  
To allow children to examine social events around them.  
To allow comparisons across a country and, hopefully, globally

### FORMAT

You can do this project in any format you like. You could do it as a word document or as a power-point one or even as a video. Anything. The choice is yours. We would love to have as many pictures as possible to enhance the text.

### INSTRUCTIONS

We want to try to show how different people celebrate and enjoy the same type of festival. Therefore, we would like your finished project to cover the following festivals. You may also decide to add some additional ones and we would welcome this. However, we would like your project to cover festivals over a complete 12 month period. You can, of course, start in whichever month you want. Do have a look at the example done some years ago by a school in Poland. Unfortunately it is only a short video clip.

Make sure you read the piece at the top of the page so that you know in what format your completed project should be.

The types of festivals are as follows:-

#### RELIGIOUS

First make a note of all the religious festivals you celebrate. Remember you don't have to be of a religion to celebrate their festivals. Many non-Christians celebrate Christmas.

After you have chosen the festivals, write a brief introduction as to why it is celebrated. Then tell us about how you and your family celebrate it. Do you eat special food, have special decorations, go anywhere special over the festival. Talk to some older members of your family and try to find out if the celebration has changed over the years.

#### SPECIAL DAYS

The special day festivals would include, for the UK, St Andrew's Day, St David's Day, St George's Day or St Patrick's Day. Also Guy Fawkes Night and Halloween and any others you can think of on your own. We would also like to know how people in your part of the world celebrate their own birthdays. I know some countries also have Name's Day that they celebrate.

So, as before, make a note of all the special day festivals you celebrate.

After you have chosen the festivals, write a brief introduction as to why it is celebrated. Um, you may not need to do this with birthdays. Then tell us about how you and your family celebrate on these days it. Do you eat special food, have special decorations, go anywhere special over the festival. Once more you can talk to some older members of your family to find out if the celebration

has changed over the years

## **LOCAL**

First a little rule about local festivals. So that we don't have loads of people writing about the same festival, I am asking that for this section you only write about festivals within 5 miles of where you live. If you go to a festival more than 5 miles away from your home, sorry, can't include it because someone else who lives nearer will.

Usual start, make a note of all the festivals held locally. These could be carnivals, cinema festivals or even a sporting festival. I don't mean any sporting event. To classify as a festival it would need to have lots of teams or players enter and probably last most of a day.

After you have chosen the festivals, write a brief introduction as to why it is celebrated and maybe how long it has been going. Then tell us what happens. Talk to some older people to find out if the festival has changed over the years.

## **ONE-OFF**

Finally you can tell us about any one-off festival that has happened that year. For example 2012 was when the Queen celebrated her golden jubilee. She is going to be celebrating a different jubilee in 2022, her platinum one. Are there any other national or local one-off festivals in the year you are covering? Don't worry if there aren't. If nothing happened, you can't write about it.

That's it.

## GENERAL OUTCOMES

At the completion of this project the student will be able to:-

- know more about local events within their community
- know how to find out more about their community
- compare how different people may celebrate the same event
- understand how certain celebrations came about
- understand, develop and communicate ideas and information
- access, analyse, evaluate and use information from a variety of sources
- work with others to achieve individual and collective goals
- understand and appreciate social, cultural, geographical and historical contexts and participate as active and informed citizens
- express themselves through creative activity and engage with the artistic, cultural and intellectual work of others
- understand and apply a variety of analytical and creative techniques to solve problems
- speak, listen, read, write, view and represent
- use language and communicate appropriately and effectively
- think in ways that are imaginative, interpretative and critical
- understand the power of language to explore and express views of themselves, others and the world
- understand the power of effective communication using the language modes of speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing and representing
- understand the role of language in developing positive interaction and co-operation with others
- use the diversity and aesthetics of language through literary and other texts
- understand the independence gained from thinking imaginatively, interpretatively and critically
- use the power of language to express the personal, social, cultural, ethical, moral, spiritual and aesthetic dimensions of human experiences
- use technology and aids to communicate with a range of audiences recognise visual texts in a range of contexts
- use visual texts in a range of contexts
- read and respond to short written texts
- respond to increasingly complex written texts
- write short texts for everyday purposes
- compose increasingly complex written texts using language appropriately and effectively
- view and respond to a range of visual texts, media and multimedia
- communicate for a variety of purposes, in a range of contexts and with a range of audiences
- draw on background and experiences to respond to texts in ways that are imaginative, interpretative or critical
- express themselves and their relationships with others and the world
- explore social and cultural issues through texts
- use individual and collaborative skills in the learning process