

<b>Unit Question L2.9</b>	<b>Religion(s) Covered</b>
<b>What are the deeper meanings of festivals?</b>	<b>Christianity/Hinduism(Judaism/Islam)</b>

**Year Group: 4**

**Suggested Hours: 6**

<b>Key Vocabulary</b>	<b>RE Skills</b>	<b>Points to Note</b>
Celebration Festival Diwali Eid-ul-Fitr Passover Vaisakhi Rangoli Penitence Mortality Sacrifice Reincarnation	Interpret Synthesise Apply Evaluate	<p>The children will have already studied a number of festivals so the key to this unit is a progression to thinking about the deeper meaning.</p> <p>Check children's prior knowledge to ensure good progress.</p> <p>For each festival consider the six aspects of festivals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient story</li> <li>• How the festival fits in with modern community</li> <li>• Sacred symbols</li> <li>• Rituals</li> <li>• Remembrance</li> <li>• Celebrating spiritual values</li> </ul>

<b>Key Question 1: How and why do you celebrate significant events?</b>	<p>Think about the times in the children's own lives and ask them to remember and celebrate significant events and people- why and how do they do this?</p> <p>Focus on Diwali, Eid-ul-Fitr, Christmas, Easter, Passover and Vaisakhi For each festival studied consider the meaning of stories. Why are these stories worth retelling every year?</p>
<b>Key Question 2: What is the meaning of the symbols and rituals used in the religious festivals</b>	<p>Think about the different symbols, sounds, actions and rituals used in the festivals- these may include sharing food, expressing devotion through worship.</p> <p>Make a collage of the different symbols and rituals using pictures</p>
<b>Key Question 3: What are the similarities and differences in the ways the festivals are celebrated?</b>	<p>Research Diwali and create a class Venn diagram- showing similarities and differences in how Diwali is celebrated within both Sikh and Hindu communities- the festival has the same name but tells different stories. Are the values the same?</p> <p>List the similarities and differences for the different festivals Create a game to illustrate this eg a matching game, a quiz, odd one out</p>
<b>Key Question 4: What is the deeper meaning of the different festivals?</b>	<p>Use a Philosophy for Children (P4C) session if possible to consider questions such as:</p> <p>Does light conquer darkness? (Diwali)            Is love stronger than death? (Easter)            Can God free people from slavery? (Passover)            Does fasting make you a better person? (Ramadan &amp; Eid-ul-Fitr)            Is it important to commit your life to your religion? (Vaisakhi)</p> <p>Is this a common theme in all religions?</p>

	<p>How do different religions show this idea?</p> <p>Children to write their final thoughts on why festivals are important to all religions at the end of the P4C session.</p>
<p><b>Key Question 5: What constitutes a festival today?</b></p>	<p>Have the children think about the things that they celebrate during the year. You could split the board into 12 months or give the children a calendar in groups. This could be an interesting P4C stimulus to consider the following questions:</p> <p>Are 'New Years' Day, Valentine's Day and Remembrance Day non-religious festivals for all? Is Comic Relief a bigger festival than Easter? Should everyone be allowed a day off work for their festivals? Is Christmas for Christians or for everyone? Can the real meaning of a festival be preserved, or do the shops and shopping always take over? Is Halloween a 'religious' festival? What about Saint Valentine's Day, or Remembrance Day on 11 November? Consider whether religious festivals or secular festivals have a stronger future.</p> <p>Give the children the opportunity to discuss which religious festivals they celebrate at home and how they are celebrated.</p>
<p><b>Unit Assessment: What are the deeper meanings of festivals?</b></p>	<p>Create a reflection as either a <b>knowledge mat</b> <a href="http://www.bengeo.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Religious+Education&amp;pid=134">http://www.bengeo.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Religious+Education&amp;pid=134</a> or a short film about what has been learnt for each festival.</p>