Name: _____ Date: _____

Celebrations Around the World - Inquiry Task

Imagine…

You have travelled to another country. You have timed your trip so that you can experience one of the country's most important cultural celebrations. You find the celebration so fascinating that you want to write down all of your amazing experiences, so you can remember them in years to come.

Task

Write a journal entry which recounts all of your (imaginary) experiences at an important cultural celebration. Include drawings, lists, recipes, labelled diagrams… anything that will help you remember the details of your experiences!

Process

- Choose a cultural celebration that is celebrated in another country (Australia Day, Basant Kite Festival, Bastille Day, Chinese New Year, Independence Day, St Patrick's Day).
- Read the fact sheets provided by your teacher.
- Record dot point notes in the research graphic organiser.
- Locate any additional information using the Internet, or library books.
- Complete the five senses graphic organiser.
- Write your journal entry using the writing template.
- Create a final copy of your journal, adding in visual text e.g. pictures.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Research Graphic Organiser

The celebration that I have chosen is _____.

Important Facts

When and where does it happen?

Why does it happen?

Who is involved?

What happens?

Important Traditions

What clothing is worn?

What food is eaten?

What decorations are used?

Other traditions or customs?

Important Symbols and Their Meanings

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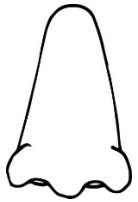
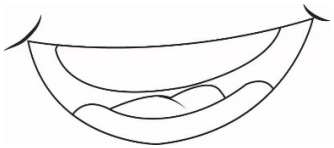
Name: _____ Date: _____

Five Senses Graphic Organiser

I can see…	I can hear…	I can smell…	I can touch…	I can taste…
				

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Writing Template

Introduction (include the main facts):

Events in order (describe your experiences of the celebration):

Conclusion (include a personal comment about the celebration):

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AUSTRALIA DAY

Australia Day is a national holiday in Australia that is celebrated each year on January 26. Australia Day means many different things to many different people. Australians choose to celebrate or to acknowledge the day in different ways.

On January 26 1788, the First Fleet of British ships arrived at Sydney Cove in New South Wales, marking the beginning of the colonisation of Australia. In the early 1880s, January 26 was celebrated as 'First Landing' or 'Foundation Day'. In 1946, the Commonwealth and state governments of Australia agreed to unify their celebrations and call it 'Australia Day'. For many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, January 26 is not a day of celebration but instead a day to commemorate the loss of their lands, families and cultures. In 1938, on the 150th anniversary of the landing of the First Fleet, Aboriginal peoples in Sydney took part in the first 'Day of Mourning'. Australia Day is sometimes called 'Invasion Day' in acknowledgement of this part of Australian history, or 'Survival Day' in celebration of the ongoing history, traditions and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In celebration of Australia's multicultural society, Australia Day is a public holiday, which means that family and friends can spend the day together. Many communities hold events such as parades, barbeques, concerts and awards ceremonies for outstanding service to the country. Citizenship ceremonies are also held, with many migrants choosing to become Australian citizens on this day.

On Australia Day, many people dress up in clothes of green and gold, which are the national colours of Australia. Others choose to wear clothing which displays the Australian, the Aboriginal flag or the Torres Strait Islander flag. Some people fly one or more of these flags outside their houses.

The Australian flag is made up of the Union Jack (a symbol of British heritage), the stars of the Southern Cross (a symbol of the southern hemisphere) and the Commonwealth Star (a symbol of the united states and territories of Australia).

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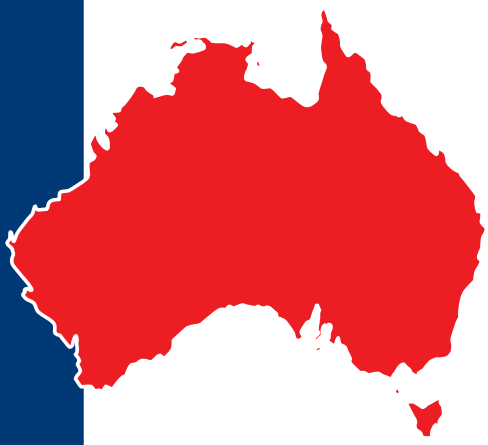
AUSTRALIA DAY

The Australian Aboriginal flag was designed by Harold Thomas and is made up of a black and red background (to symbolise Aboriginal peoples and red earth) and a yellow circle (to symbolise the sun). The Torres Strait Islander flag was designed by Bernard Namok and is made up of a green, blue and black background (to symbolise the land, water, and Torres Strait Islander peoples), a white dhari (a Torres Strait Islander dancer's headdress) and a white star (to symbolise the five major island groups in the Torres Strait).

Many Australians choose to eat their favourite foods on Australia Day. Some of these foods include sausages, meat pies, prawns, lamingtons and pavlova. Australians from different cultural backgrounds often choose to celebrate with their culture's favourite dishes.

Australia Day falls in the middle of summer and is a great opportunity for Australians to enjoy the wonderful weather. Sports such as cricket and tennis are popular; along with trips to the beach or the local swimming pool. Many community festivals celebrate with food, music and dancing in the warm summer sun. In the evening, firework displays can be enjoyed in towns and cities across the country.



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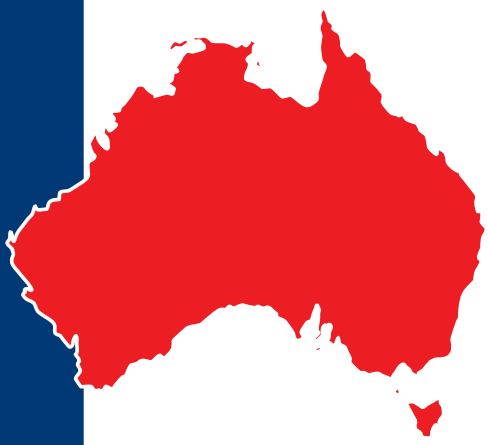
AUSTRALIA DAY



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☘ SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

Saint Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland that is celebrated each year on March 17. The holiday originally began as a celebration of the life and work of Saint Patrick, the man who brought the Christian faith to Ireland a very long time ago. Today, the holiday mainly celebrates all aspects of Ireland's rich culture and heritage. It is celebrated not only in Ireland; but all around the world.

To celebrate Saint Patrick's Day, everyone goes green! Green is the national colour of Ireland, symbolising the lush, emerald pastures of the country. Irish people wear green clothes, hats, jewellery, face paint... some people even dye their hair green! It is tradition to pinch an Irish person who is not wearing green on Saint Patrick's Day.

Another popular symbol displayed on Saint Patrick's Day clothing is the shamrock. This three-leafed clover is thought to have been used by Saint Patrick when he was teaching about Christianity. Nowadays, it is more commonly recognised as a symbol of good luck.

Other people may dress up as leprechauns. Leprechauns usually have white stockings, a red beard and a green top hat. Irish children are told the story of these tiny fairy shoemakers who can be found at the end of a rainbow with a pot of gold. Today, the leprechaun is seen as a symbol of good fortune.

Saint Patrick's Day is a public holiday in Ireland, which means that families and friends can spend the day celebrating together. Parades are a very important part of the celebration. Communities gather together all over Ireland to dress in traditional costumes, play Irish music or perform traditional Irish dances performances. Fireworks are a common feature of the celebrations.

Traditional Irish food is cooked and shared on Saint Patrick's Day. Some common foods on the menu include Irish stews with potatoes

and cabbage, Shepherd's pie, boiled ham and soda bread. Cakes and biscuits covered in green icing are also a common treat on Saint Patrick's Day.

Today, Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in countries all over the world. It is especially important in countries with a high number of Irish migrants, such as the United States of America, Canada and Australia.

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☘ SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

Independence Day is a national holiday in the USA that is celebrated each year on July 4. On this day, in 1776, the first 13 American colonies declared their independence from Great Britain and formed a new country called the United States of America. The holiday celebrates this important historical event; but also celebrates the culture, values and freedoms of modern-day America.

To celebrate Independence Day, many people decorate their homes with balloons, streamers or the American flag. The flag, called the Stars and Stripes, symbolises the first 13 colonies (the stripes) and the 50 states of modern-day America (the stars). Some people like to wear clothing with the American flag printed on it; or they might choose to wear the nation's colours of red, white and blue. Hats and clothing displaying the bald eagle (a symbol of power and strength) or the Statue of Liberty (a symbol of freedom) might also be worn.

The Fourth of July is a public holiday, which means families can spend the day celebrating together. Many communities hold special parades in the morning; with marching bands, colourful decorations and moving displays called floats.

Families usually eat lunch together. Barbeques are very popular, with foods such as hotdogs, hamburgers, corn on the cob, watermelon and apple pie being served.

In the afternoons, families enjoy outdoor activities such as baseball games, three-legged races, swimming and tug-of-war games. The day usually concludes with a fireworks display. Fireworks were used to celebrate the first anniversary of American independence in 1777 and the tradition continues to this day.

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

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BASANT KITE FESTIVAL

The Basant Kite Festival is an important cultural celebration in the Punjab region of Asia (eastern Pakistan and northern India). It celebrates the end of winter and the beginning of spring. Because the date is based on the phase of the moon (unlike Western calendars which are based on the sun), the timing of the celebration changes from year to year. It starts on the fifth day of the lunar month of Magha, which usually occurs between late January and early February.

Before the celebration begins, people decorate the outside of their houses with yellow balloons, streamers and lights. One special decoration is the yellow mustard flower. This flower blossoms in the Punjab region during the season of spring. During the Basant celebrations, people dress up in yellow to symbolise the mustard flower and the bright, shining sun. Men wear yellow scarves around their necks and women wear yellow dresses. People also wear special bangles, called gajras, made from the yellow mustard flower.

Just like the name suggests, one of the most important symbols of Basant is the kite. The kite represents the fun and freedom that comes with the warmer spring weather. During the celebration, the entire sky is filled with kites of all colours, shapes and sizes. Families will stand on their roofs and fly their kites, or they might join in a local kite-flying competition.

Kites are just one part of the Basant celebration. During the festival, communities will celebrate by performing traditional folkdances, listening to traditional music, watching puppet shows and eating traditional Punjabi foods. Special dishes such as saffron rice, kebabs and sweet puddings are prepared and these are often served free in shops along the sides of the roads.

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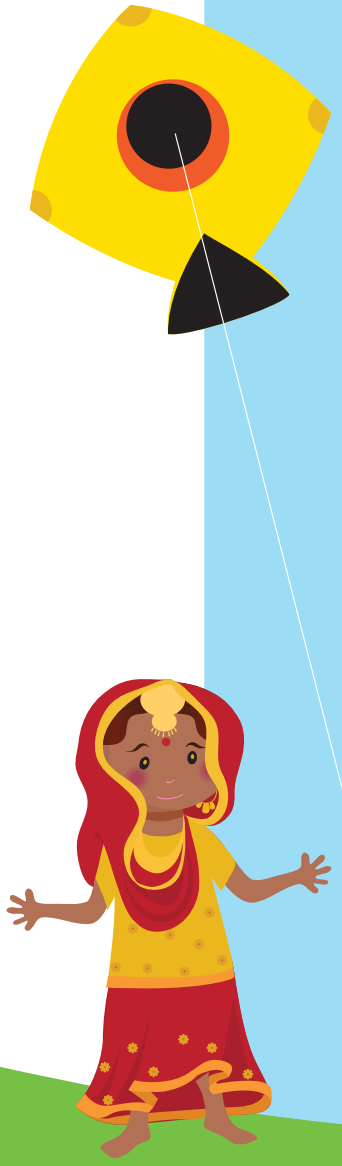
BASANT KITE FESTIVAL



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BASTILLE DAY

Bastille Day is a national holiday in France that is celebrated each year on July 14. The holiday commemorates an important event in the history of France: the storming of the Bastille. The Bastille was a prison in Paris (the capital of France). The king and queen locked up people inside the prison who did not agree with their decisions. Many French people did not like the king and queen; they did not seem to care about the poor, who had very little to eat. On the morning of July 14, 1789, a large group of people charged into the prison and demanded that the seven prisoners inside be released. This event was the beginning of the French Revolution, which eventually led to a new, fairer government in France.

The Bastille Day Parade is a very important part of the nation's celebration. In Paris, the capital of France, people line the streets to watch the military parade which is held along the main shopping avenue. Many people choose to dress in the nation's colours of red, white and blue. The French flag, called the Tricolour, is displayed in every possible place as a symbol of the nation's values of freedom and equality for all.

Bastille Day is a public holiday, which means that families and friends can spend the day celebrating together. Food is an important part of French culture and is therefore a special part of the day's celebrations. As the holiday falls in the middle of summer, people will often take advantage of the warmer weather and enjoy casual meals outdoors. Some of the foods eaten include quiche (a tart made with egg and pastry), salads, cheeses, pâtés and, of course, a delicious French dessert!

In the evening, fireworks displays are common all over the country. The most impressive display takes places in Paris, where fireworks are launched high into the sky from the top of the Eiffel Tower.

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BASTILLE DAY

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CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is the most important cultural celebration of the year in China. It celebrates the end of winter and the beginning of the new year, but is also a special time for remembering family members who have died. Because the date is based on the phase of the moon (unlike Western calendars which are based on the sun), the timing of the celebration changes from year to year. It starts on the new moon which usually occurs between late January and late February. There is a three-day public holiday to celebrate Chinese New Year, but the festival lasts for 15 days.

Before the celebration begins, people decorate the outside of their houses with lights, lanterns and special red and gold decorations called Spring Couplets. Some people paint their doors and windows red, as this is considered to be a lucky colour. The inside of the house is carefully cleaned to sweep out any bad luck and make room for good luck in the year ahead.

On New Year's Eve, adults and children wear new clothes bought especially for the occasion. Each family will pay their respects to their ancestors and ask them to send good luck and good fortune for the coming year.

Families then sit down to eat a special meal together, called the Reunion Dinner. Special meats are served, as well as dumplings (a symbol of wealth). In some parts of China, a special cake is eaten and shared with relatives and friends.

When midnight chimes, there is much celebration. Firecrackers are lit; the louder, the better! This is to make sure that the evil spirits are scared away and are too frightened to ever return!

On New Year's Day, the celebrations continue. Chinese children receive a special red envelope with money inside from their parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Chinese people will visit their families, or welcome visitors into their own homes.

Everyone then watches the Chinese New Year Parade. The most important part is the Dragon Dance. In China, the dragon is a symbol of wisdom and power. During the dance, a large dragon is carried above the heads of the dancers by long poles. The longer the dragon, the luckier it is!

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CHINESE NEW YEAR

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