



ACTIVITY SHEET EPISODE 17: TALKING ABOUT FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

Practise and consolidate your learning by completing our activities. Remember to refer to the Study Notes for this episode if you need help.

Note: The answers for **all** activities are on pages 3 and 4.

ACTIVITY 1

Complete the sentences below by choosing the correct word from the box.

traditions	feast	festival	customary	ritual
superstitious	decorate	symbolise	celebrate	celebrations

- One of the most important _____ in the Chinese lunar calendar is the annual Spring Festival or Chinese New Year.
- It is _____ for the family to come together on New Year's Eve for a family reunion.
- The family gathers around a circular table and enjoys a _____, a banquet with many dishes which must include fish.
- Some of the significant _____ associated with this festival include preparing special food, making sure the house is clean and buying new clothes.
- It is also important to _____ the house and paste red paper cut-outs, or paper cuts of auspicious characters on windows and doors.
- Dumplings in the shape of the tael, a Chinese coin, are eaten. The dumplings _____ wealth.
- Many Chinese are _____. At midnight fire crackers are lit to scare away devils and evil spirits.
- On the first day of the New Year, shops invite a lion dance troupe as a symbolic _____ to evict bad spirits from their premises.
- The fifteenth day of the first lunar month is the first full moon, and is known as the Lantern _____.
- People _____ the new moon by carrying lighted lanterns through the streets and parks, and lighting more fireworks.



ACTIVITY 2

Complete the following description of Buddhist festivals by including the correct (or no) article. Choose either **a**, **an**, **the** or **X** (no article).

Buddhist Festivals are always **1.** ____ joyful occasions. Typically on the festival day, **2.** ____ lay people will go to **3.** ____ local temple or monastery and offer food to the monks and take the Five Precepts and listen to a Dharma talk, a talk on the teachings of **4.** ____ Buddha. In **5.** ____ afternoon, they distribute food to **6.** ____ poor to make merit, and in the evening perhaps join in **7.** ____ ceremony of circumambulation of the stupa three times as **8.** ____ sign of respect to the Buddha. **9.** ____ day will conclude with evening chanting of **10.** ____ Buddha's teachings and meditation.

ACTIVITY 3

Change the **verbs** in the following description of the Muslim Feast of Ramadan.

Ramadan was the month in which the first verses of the Qur'an were revealed to the Islamic Prophet Muhammad. Ramadan **1.** ____ (**to be**) the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It **2.** ____ (**to be**) the Islamic month of fasting, in which participating Muslims **3.** ____ (**refrain**) from eating, drinking, smoking, and indulging in anything that is excessive, from dawn until sunset. Fasting **4.** ____ (**to be**) meant to teach the Muslim patience, modesty and spirituality.

Ramadan **5.** ____ (**to be**) a time for Muslims to fast for the sake of God and to offer more prayer than usual. During Ramadan, Muslims **6.** ____ (**to ask**) forgiveness for past sins, **7.** ____ (**to pray**) for guidance and help in refraining from everyday evils, and **8.** ____ (**to try**) to purify themselves through self-restraint and good deeds. Compared to the solar calendar, the dates of Ramadan **9.** ____ (**to vary**), moving forward about ten days each year as it **10.** ____ (**to be**) a moving holiday depending on the moon.



ANSWERS ACTIVITY 1

1. One of the most important celebrations in the Chinese lunar calendar is the annual Spring Festival or Chinese New Year.
2. It is customary for the family to come together on New Year's Eve for a family reunion.
3. The family gathers around a circular table and enjoys a feast, a banquet with many dishes which must include fish.
4. Some of the significant traditions associated with this festival include preparing special food, making sure the house is clean and buying new clothes.
5. It is also important to decorate the house and paste red paper cut-outs, or paper cuts of auspicious characters on windows and doors.
6. Dumplings in the shape of the tael, a Chinese coin, are eaten. The dumplings symbolise wealth.
7. Many Chinese are superstitious. At midnight fire crackers are lit to scare away devils and evil spirits.
8. On the first day of the New Year, shops invite a lion dance troupe as a symbolic ritual to evict bad spirits from their premises.
9. The fifteenth day of the first lunar month is the first full moon, and is known as the Lantern festival.
10. People celebrate the new moon by carrying lighted lanterns through the streets and parks, and lighting more fireworks.

ANSWERS ACTIVITY 2

Buddhist Festivals are always 1. X joyful occasions. Typically on the festival day, 2. X lay people will go to 3. The local temple or monastery and offer food to the monks and take the Five Precepts and listen to a Dharma talk, a talk on the teachings of 4. The Buddha. In 5. the afternoon, they distribute food to 6. the poor to make merit, and in the evening perhaps join in 7. a ceremony of circumambulation of the stupa three times as 8. a sign of respect to the Buddha. 9. The day will conclude with evening chanting of 10. the Buddha's teachings and meditation.



ANSWERS ACTIVITY 3

Ramadan was the month in which the first verses of the Qur'an were revealed to the Islamic Prophet Muhammad. Ramadan **1. is** the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It **2. is** the Islamic month of fasting, in which participating Muslims **3. refrain** from eating, drinking, smoking, and indulging in anything that is excessive, from dawn until sunset. Fasting **4. is** meant to teach the Muslim patience, modesty and spirituality.

Ramadan **5. is** a time for Muslims to fast for the sake of God and to offer more prayer than usual. During Ramadan, Muslims **6. ask** forgiveness for past sins, **7. pray** for guidance and help in refraining from everyday evils, and **8. try** to purify themselves through self-restraint and good deeds. Compared to the solar calendar, the dates of Ramadan **9. vary**, moving forward about ten days each year as it **10. is** a moving holiday depending on the moon.