

# Festivals & Traditions

## Common questions

**Part 1** - What is the most important festival in your country?

**Part 1** - What special activities and food are associated with this festival?

**Part 2** - Describe a popular festival or celebration in your country.

**Part 3** - What is the purpose of gift-giving?

**Part 3** - Are any old traditions related to particular times of the year in your country disappearing?

**Part 3** - Do you think any festivals or celebrations in your country are over-commercialised?

## Vocabulary and expressions

**Preserve (v)** - to keep something as it is.

*I think it's important to preserve our family traditions.*

**Ritual (n)** - a set of fixed actions and sometimes words performed regularly.

*There are many rituals at Christmas that are dying out.*

**Sacrifice (v)** - to give up something that is valuable to you in order to help another person.

*It's important to sacrifice our time and money to keep traditions going with our family.*

**Delicacy (n)** - something especially rare or expensive that is good to eat.

*There are many delicacies available to eat at our town festival.*

**Superstition (n)** - a belief not based on scientific thinking that explains the causes for events.

*Superstitions are a huge part of Halloween.*

**Customary (adj)** - usual. Traditional.

*It is customary for children to bow at Korean Thanksgiving.*

**Date back to (phr)** - to have been made in or to have come into being in (date).

*This tradition dates back to the beginning of the century.*

**Long-standing (adj)** - having existed for a long time.

*Opening a present on Christmas Eve is a long-standing tradition in our family.*

**Feast (n)** - a special meal with very good food or a large meal for many people:.

*Christmas dinner is usually a feast!*

**Togetherness (n)** - the pleasant feeling of being with other people.

*The feeling of togetherness is the most important part of Christmas for me.*