

Vocabulary

public holiday • bank holiday (BrE) / national holiday / religious holiday / special occasion / festival / celebration / tradition / Christmas markets / Easter markets / carnival / parade / fancy-dress party (BrE) / costume party (AmE)

Holidays: New Year's Day / Valentine's Day / Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day (BrE) / Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras (AmE) / Mothers' Day / St Patrick's Day / Father's Day / Good Friday / Easter Sunday/Monday / Independence Day (AmE) / Halloween / Bonfire Night (BrE) / Thanksgiving (AmE) / Christmas Eve/Day / New Year's Eve

Icons and Symbols: Father Christmas (BrE) / Santa Claus / Baby Jesus / nativity scene / Christmas decorations/cake/tree / stockings / mistletoe / holly / Easter Bunny / Easter eggs / cross / Jack o' Lantern (AmE) / pumpkin / skeleton / witch

Traditions: ring in the New Year / watch fireworks / sing Auld Lang Syne / have an Easter egg hunt / dye eggs / get dressed up / go trick-or-treating / send out Christmas cards / decorate the tree / the house/flat (BrE)/apartment (AmE) / hang stockings / put on a nativity play / roast a turkey / kiss under the mistletoe

Christmas Presents: do your Christmas shopping / buy or get a present for someone / wrap presents / give someone a present / get a present from someone / get a present for Christmas / open or unwrap a present

Personal Questions

- What's your favourite holiday and why do you like it?
- Do you ever dress up? What was your best ever costume?
- When do you do your Christmas shopping?
- What do you want to get for Christmas this year? What are you going to get for other people?

"I love [holiday] because we spend time together / go to church / have a party / stay up all night / visit family / get presents / eat a lot / I like baking cakes / making biscuits (BrE) / cookies (AmE)..."

"I usually make my own costumes / go to fancy-dress parties / go as something funny / scary. The best costume I ever made / wore was... because..."

"I do my Christmas shopping throughout the year / well in advance / at the last minute / on Christmas Eve / I've bought some presents / I haven't bought anything yet..."

"I hope to get a new tablet / I'm hoping to get a bike / some new clothes from my dad / I'm getting my dad a gift card / gift certificate (AmE) / gift voucher (BrE) to his favourite store / I'm giving my mum a nice scarf / some books..."

TOPIC CARD

CHANGING TRADITIONS

USEFUL PHRASES

Festivals around the world

New Year's Day / Epiphany, Christmas, Orthodox Christmas / Chinese New Year, Lunar New Year / Groundhog Day / Valentine's Day / International Women's Day / Saint Patrick's Day / Holi / Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day, Mardi Gras / Ash Wednesday / Lent / April Fool's Day / Anzac Day / Maundy Thursday / Good Friday / Holy Saturday / Easter Sunday / Easter bank holiday, bank holiday / Monday / Passover, Pesach / Earth Day / May Day / Cinco de Mayo / Independence Day, the 4th of July / Ramadan / Eid al-Fitr / Yom Kippur / Diwali / All-Hallows' Eve, Halloween / Samhain / All-Saints' Day, All-Hallows' Day / Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead / Guy Fawkes' Night, Bonfire Night / Thanksgiving / Advent / Saint Nicholas' Day / Christmas Eve / Christmas Day / Boxing Day, Saint Stephen's Day / Kwanzaa / New Year's Eve

Festival traditions in English-speaking countries

a firework display / singing "Auld Lang Syne" / the sales / fasting / an egg roll / an egg hunt / hot cross buns / Maypole dancing / wearing green / wearing shamrocks / a carnival / a parade / trick-or-treating / jack-o'-lanterns / burning a Guy / the pardoning of the turkey / Friendsgiving (Thanksgiving with friends instead of family) / a stuffed turkey / the Macy's parade / Christmas lights / Santa parades / a Santa's grotto (a place where children can "meet Santa") / nativity scenes / midnight mass / hanging a stocking / Christmas crackers

Other traditions, old and new

a tailgate party (social event held around the open rear door of a vehicle) / a graduation ball, grad ball / a graduation party / a yearbook / Morris dancing (English folk dance) / the piping of the haggis (playing bagpipes while bringing in a haggis, a Burns Night tradition) / a stag night, stag do / a hen party / a baby shower / Black Friday / Cyber Monday (the Monday after Black Friday, when there are big online sales)

PAIR DISCUSSION

Imagine you meet someone who practises a different religion from you, or someone from a different country. You compare holiday traditions. What are the similarities and differences between your traditions?

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

- What is your favourite holiday or festival? Why?
- Which holidays / traditions from other countries would you like to adopt and why?
- What traditions that you know are disappearing / have disappeared?
- Can you describe your ideal celebration of a holiday of your choice?

PICTURE PROMPTS

Look at the pictures on the other side of the card. Choose one and describe it. Now compare and contrast the two pictures. Talk about the situations you see and the ways in which they are similar to and different from each other.