

Unit 1

Festivals and Celebrations

Reading and Thinking

阅读课



Lead-in

Watch The pictures and complete the table below.



Name	Time	Activities
The Lantern Festival	The fifteenth day of the first month of the lunar calendar	Enjoy lanterns, guess riddles...
The Dragon Boat Festival	The fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar	Enjoy delicious <i>Zongzi</i> , dragon boat race...
The Mid-Autumn Festival	The fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar	Admire the moon, enjoy the mooncakes...

Lead-in

Discuss the questions below in groups.

Q 1: *What festivals do you celebrate with your family each year?*

Q 2: *Why do you think people celebrate different festivals?*

Name of the festival

Reason for celebrating the festivals

The Spring Festival

Family reunion

The Double Ninth Festival

Show respect to the old

The Qingming Festival /
Tomb-sweeping Day

Miss people who died, express respect

Pre-reading

Observe the pictures on the book.

What festivals are the two pictures about?
How do you know?



The Mid-Autumn Festival
Mooncakes on the table



The Mother's Day
Celebration cards and flowers

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE FESTIVALS?



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Of all the traditional festivals, the **harvest** festival can be found in almost every culture. This important agricultural festival takes place after all the **crops** have been **gathered** in. People celebrate to show that they are **grateful** for the year's supply of food. In ancient Egypt, the harvest festival was celebrated during the springtime—the Egyptian harvest season.

It **featured** a parade and a great feast with music, dancing, and sports. Today, in some European countries, people **decorate churches** and town

halls with flowers and fruit, and get together to celebrate over a meal. During the Mid-Autumn Festival in China, families gather to admire the shining moon and enjoy delicious mooncakes.

Customs play a **significant** role in festivals, but sometimes they can change over time. With the development of modern society and the spread of new ideas, some traditions may fade away and others may be established. One example is the **typical** Chinese Spring Festival custom of lighting firecrackers to drive away the evil spirits and celebrate the new year. Nowadays, many big cities have given up this custom in order to avoid air pollution. Another example is Halloween, which slowly became an exciting festival for children, in spite of its religious origins.

Festivals are becoming more and more **commercial**, with businesses taking advantage of the celebrations. Online shopping websites and social **media** apps have made it much easier for the public to spend more on gifts for their loved ones. Although some believe festivals should not be commercialised, others believe the increase in spending is good for the economy and public happiness.



Festivals are an important part of society. They **reflect** people's wishes, **beliefs**, **faiths**, and attitudes towards life. They are **occasions** that allow us to relax and enjoy life, and forget about our work for a little while. They help us understand where we came from, who we are, and what to appreciate. And if you study festivals carefully, you may be surprised to find that different cultures actually have a lot in common after all.

Pre-reading Predict the information of the text.

□ According to the title and pictures, what the text is about?

A. The development of festivals.

 B. The reasons why we celebrate festivals.

C. The importance of festivals.

D. How we celebrate festivals.

□ What the type of the text is it?

 论说文 议论文+说明文

B. 记叙文

C. 应用文

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While-reading Why do we celebrate festivals?

1. Find the main idea of each paragraph.

1 Festivals are celebrated all around the world.

2 The harvest festival can be found in almost every culture.

3 Customs play a significant role in festivals, but sometimes they can change over time.

4 Festivals are becoming more and more commercial.

5 Festivals are an important part of the society.

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While-reading

Read paragraph 1, answer the question.

What are the origins and spirits of festivals?

Origins: the season of the year, religions, famous figures, important events.

Spirits: to share joy, gratitude, love, or peace.

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While-reading Read paragraph 2, answer the question.

What are the different harvest festivals?

Egypt: It featured a parade and a great feast with music, dancing, and sports.

European countries: People decorate churches and town halls with flowers and fruits, and get together to celebrate over a meal.

China: Families gather to admire the shining moon and enjoy delicious mooncakes during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

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While-reading

Read paragraph 3, answer the question.

What festivals customs have changed over time?

The tradition customs of the Spring Festival and Halloween.

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While-reading

Read paragraph 4 and 5, decide true(T) or false(F).

❑ Nowadays, more people would like to spend their money on gifts. T

❑ Commercialized festivals are harmful for our daily lives. F

❑ People will not relax and enjoy themselves without festivals. T

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE FESTIVALS?

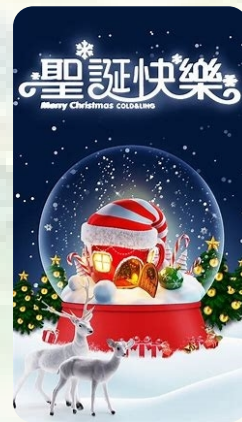


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While-reading Why do we celebrate festivals?

2. Complete the structure of the text?

Why do we celebrate festivals?



Para 1: Common spirit of the festival

Para 2: The harvest festivals in Egypt, European countries and China.

Para 3: Changes of customs: Lightening firecrackers, Halloween.

Para 4: Different attitudes towards commercialization of festivals.

Para 5: significance of the festivals.

While-reading Why do we celebrate festivals?

3. What is the structure of the text?



总-分-总

B. 总-分-分

C. 总-分

Why do we celebrate festivals?



Para 1: Common spirit of the festival 总

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分

Para 5: significance of the festivals. 总

While-reading The influencing factors of celebrating festivals.

4. Think about the following questions.

❑ Why do people celebrate the **harvest festivals**?

To express their gratitude to nature.


❑ What role do **customs and traditions** play in festivals? Do you think they are also the reasons for celebrating festivals? Why?

Customs and traditions are very significant and they are also the reasons for celebrating festivals. Some traditions may fade away and others may be established.

While-reading The influencing factors of celebrating festivals.

❑ How is the **commercialization of festivals** influencing people's way of celebrating festivals?

 It is much easier for the public to spend more on gifts for their loved ones.

 The increase in spending is good for economy and public happiness.

❑ What are some other reasons for celebrating festivals?

religious belief

personal interest

different hobbies

While-reading Why do we celebrate festivals?



5. People all over the world celebrate different festivals because:

Festivals originates from seasons, religions, famous figure and events.

People would like to show their gratitude to the year's supply of food.

Some customs may fade away, but people give festival new meaning.

The commercialization of festivals promotes economy and happiness.

Festivals are a part of society, they represent common spirit of people.



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