

3.016

1.

Man I decorate the Christmas tree. I help my dad make the turkey stuffing. On Christmas Day, I find presents in my stocking.

3.017

2.

Woman Songkran is known as the Water Festival. People throw water at each other. They clean Buddha statues and offer food to monks.

3.018

3.

Woman People celebrate a good harvest, and there is always a big feast. People honor their ancestors during this festival.

3.019

1. My aunt and uncle invited me to spend my vacation with them.
2. I helped my aunt prepare a special meal.
3. We spent the whole day partying at the beach.
4. Instead of a snowball fight, I had a dip in the pool.
5. The best part of festival was a parade of Santas.

3.020

1.

Woman When my cousin in Australia invited me to spend Christmas with her, I hesitated. Christmas in Australia, in the heat of the summer? I always spend Christmas in England with my family. On Christmas Eve, I usually help my mum prepare the turkey stuffing and wrap presents for my brothers and sisters. And then on Christmas Day, I wake up early in the morning to find my stocking filled with presents. But then I thought, I'm not a child any more. I want to try something different this year. And I wasn't disappointed. Sydney was amazing! On Christmas Day, I woke up to birds singing outside my window and I spent the whole day partying at the beach, wearing shorts and a T-shirt. We had barbequed seafood, different salads and lots of ice cream. The food was great! Instead of a snowball fight, I had a dip on the sea. There was no snow, no reindeer or a sleigh, but there was a Santa who arrived at the beach riding a surfboard! I had a great time in Sydney! Next year, I'm going to spend Christmas in Miami!

3.021

2.

Man Have you ever heard of Songkran? I hadn't. I was travelling through Southeast Asia and

ended up in Chiang Mai in Thailand one night in April. The next morning, I went out of my hotel and was immediately shot at with water guns by three laughing kids. At the hotel, the manager laughed too, and explained that it was Songkran, the Buddhist New Year festival, also known as the Water Festival. It was all about getting wet – and getting other people wet, as Thais believe that water will wash away all the bad luck! So the manager gave me bucket of cold water, and I headed out onto the street to enjoy the fun. I spent the rest of the day wandering through the town throwing water at people. I got soaking wet myself, but it was very refreshing in the heat of Chiang Mai! The next day, I watched some of the ceremonies, such as cleaning Buddha statues and offering food to monks. I was also invited to a feast, but the best part was a parade of ladies on bicycles, carrying beautiful umbrellas.

3.022

Lecturer People from different cultures all over the world celebrate the gathering of the harvest. Many harvest festivals began a long time ago – probably as early as people began farming. Planting and harvest times were very important to early farmers because they depended on a good harvest for survival. Nowadays, people around the world still continue to celebrate a good harvest. These are some of the harvest festivals celebrated in different parts of the world.

Chuseok is a Korean festival that takes place during the harvest season. Families travel to the graves of their ancestors and offer them rice and fruit. There is a special feast which starts with a family gathering where special rice cakes are served. Women wearing their best ‘hanbok’, make a circle and sing and dance.

In India, people celebrate the Hindu festival of Onam in August or September. Many special activities begin before the actual holiday and last for ten days. One of the main traditions of Onam is boat races. Men row large boats covered with red umbrellas. There is a big feast where around thirteen vegetarian dishes are served on banana leaves.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated in September or October when the ancient Chinese believed in the moon was at its brightest and fullest. The festival is a time for families to gather for picnics or special dinners while watching the full moon. People eat different kinds of round cakes called “mooncakes”.

In many parts of Africa, people celebrate during the harvest times. In Ghana, there is a fruits festival called the Yam Festival. The celebrations begin with ceremonies to honor their ancestors and give thanks to the gods for a good harvest. Special dishes made from yams are served at a big feast. People sing and dance to the sound of drums.

3.023

Example: We had lots of ice cream.

1. I want to try something different this year.

2. Sydney was amazing!
3. I woke up to birds singing outside my window.
4. Special rice cakes are served.
5. Special dishes made from yams are served at a big feast.
6. Chuseok is a Korean festival that takes place during the harvest season.

3.024

Li Wei, China

Let me tell you about a wonderful festival in China called the Harbin Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival. I think it is the largest ice and snow festival in the world. The festival is officially held from January 5th to February 5th but some exhibits may open earlier or stay open later. The festival showcases beautiful ice sculptures, ranging from small animals to giant lanterns the size of castles. If you go to the Harbin Ice and Snow Sculpture Festivals, you'll want to take lots of pictures! Make sure you bring lots of warm clothes though – the weather can go to 15 degrees below zero in winter!

3.025

Arisa Lim, Malaysia

Attracting over a million worshippers and thousands of tourists, Malaysia's Hindu celebration Thaipusam is a very unique festival in my country. Thaipusam is celebrated on a full moon in the Tamil month of Thai, which is in either January or February. The festival consists of an eight-hour procession that begins in a temple in Kuala Lumpur and ends in a beautiful temple at the Batu caves. Worshippers must do something difficult to ask the God for help. This can be something simple, like carrying a pot of milk. I should warn you that some worshippers even stick metal rods into their bodies. It can be a little strange!

3.026

Asa Chandra, India

The Holi Festival of Colors is ancient Hindu religious festival that I usually held in my country in March. It is one of the most important festivals in the Hindu calendar and is used to celebrate the coming of spring. Celebrations begin with people lighting bonfire the night before Holi. Along with the fire, there is singing, dancing and drumming. The next day, people throw colored powder and water at friends and strangers as a celebration of joy and goodwill. If you celebrate Holi, make sure you wear clothes that you don't mind ruining! You will be covered in colored powder at the end of the day.

3.027

Kim Song, Korea

There is a pretty crazy festival in my country that I want to tell you about. It's called the Boryeong Mud Festival and it takes place every year around mid-July. At this time it is summer in Korea, and

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people flock to the Daecheon beach area in South Korea. There is a place called the Boryeong mud flats. Mud is taken from there and used in many mud-related events such as mud wrestling, mud massage, mud sliding and mud body painting! It's a very special experience. You should be careful though, if you come to Boryeong – you will get very dirty!