

Name: _____

Discover World Traditions: Reading, Listening, and Grammar Practice



PART 1: READING & LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Read and listen about **Unlocking Talents**. Then, answer the questions.

"Festivals and Traditions Around the World"

Festivals and traditions are an integral part of human culture, reflecting the history, beliefs, and values of different societies. From vibrant celebrations to solemn rituals, these events bring communities together and offer a glimpse into the unique ways people celebrate life. Let's explore some fascinating festivals and traditions from around the world.

1. Diwali in India

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is one of the most significant celebrations in India. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. During Diwali, homes are adorned with oil lamps, colorful rangoli designs, and flowers. Families exchange gifts, share sweets, and set off fireworks. The festival also has religious significance, as it marks the return of Lord Rama to his kingdom after 14 years of exile. Diwali is a time for joy, reflection, and renewal.



2. Carnival in Brazil

Brazil's Carnival is a world-famous festival known for its lively parades, samba music, and elaborate costumes. Held before Lent, it is a time of joy and celebration. Streets are filled with dancers, musicians, and floats, creating an atmosphere of excitement and energy. The Rio de Janeiro Carnival is particularly famous, attracting millions of visitors each year. Carnival is a celebration of life, culture, and creativity.





3. Hanami in Japan

Hanami, or "flower viewing," is a traditional Japanese festival that celebrates the beauty of cherry blossoms. During spring, people gather in parks to picnic under the blooming trees. The festival is a time for reflection and appreciation of nature's fleeting beauty. Hanami also symbolizes the transient nature of life, a concept deeply rooted in Japanese culture. It is a time for families and friends to come together and enjoy the beauty of nature.

4. Oktoberfest in Germany

Oktoberfest is the world's largest beer festival, held annually in Munich, Germany. It began in 1810 as a celebration of a royal wedding and has since grown into a global event. Visitors enjoy traditional Bavarian food, music, and, of course, beer. The festival also features parades, amusement rides, and cultural performances. Oktoberfest is a celebration of Bavarian culture and hospitality.



5. Day of the Dead in Mexico

The Day of the Dead, or Día de los Muertos, is a Mexican festival that honors deceased loved ones. It is celebrated on November 1st and 2nd, coinciding with the Catholic holidays of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Families create altars adorned with photos, candles, flowers, and offerings of food and drink. The festival is a time to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have passed away. It is a vibrant and colorful celebration of life and death.





Read & listen to the audio about global festivals and traditions and answer the comprehension questions below.

Comprehension Questions

1 What does Diwali symbolize?

- a) The arrival of spring b) The victory of light over darkness. c) The end of the harvest season
d) The beginning of a new year

2 What is the main feature of Brazil's Carnival?

- a) Fireworks. b) Samba music and parades. c) Cherry blossoms.
d) Traditional Bavarian food

3 What does Hanami celebrate?

- a) The harvest season. b) The beauty of cherry blossoms. c) The victory of good over evil
d) The return of a king

4 Where is Oktoberfest held?

- a) Tokyo b) Rio de Janeiro c) Munich d) New Delhi

5 What is the significance of Diwali in Indian culture?

- a) It marks the beginning of the harvest season. b) It celebrates the victory of light over darkness.
c) It honors deceased loved ones. d) It marks the end of the year.

6 What is the Day of the Dead in Mexico?

- a) A festival celebrating the harvest b) A festival honoring deceased loved ones
c) A festival celebrating the New Year d) A festival celebrating the victory of good over evil

7 What is the traditional food served at Oktoberfest?

- a) Sushi b) Tacos c) Bavarian food d) Indian sweets

8 What is the main activity during Hanami?

- a) Setting off fireworks b) Picnicking under cherry blossoms.
c) Dancing in parades d) Creating altars

9 What is the purpose of the Day of the Dead altars?

- a) To celebrate the harvest b) To honor deceased loved ones
c) To mark the beginning of the New Year d) To celebrate the victory of light over darkness



Answer key

Answer Key:

- b) The victory of light over darkness
- b) Samba music and parades
- b) The beauty of cherry blossoms
- c) Munich
- b) It celebrates the victory of light over darkness.
- b) A festival honoring deceased loved ones
- c) Bavarian food
- b) Picnicking under cherry blossoms
- b) To honor deceased loved ones