What do people celebrate and why?

Interact Discovery Sheets Social Science Years 1-4

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31 **Rejolve** Celebrating God's Faithfulness

INTRODUCTION

What do people celebrate and why? This Interact Teacher Manual forms part of the theme, God is faithful and wants us to be faithful. In this investigation we will explore the reasons that people celebrate, and the different ways in which they do this. Most importantly, we will learn about our need to celebrate the things that demonstrate God's faithfulness to us.

Everyone loves a celebration! Since earliest times, people have looked for reasons to celebrate – from the phases of the moon, to the bounty of the harvest, to the myriad of milestones in an individual's life. They have danced, decorated and dressed up, sung songs, told stories, feasted and performed rituals to acknowledge or ensure their good fortune.

Every society finds reasons for, and ways to celebrate. Celebrations are about people sharing their joys and sorrows surrounding their ideals, beliefs, their experience and their history, and are often expressed in ways that become traditions for that society. Remembering and celebrating are ways in which people pass on their values to future generations.

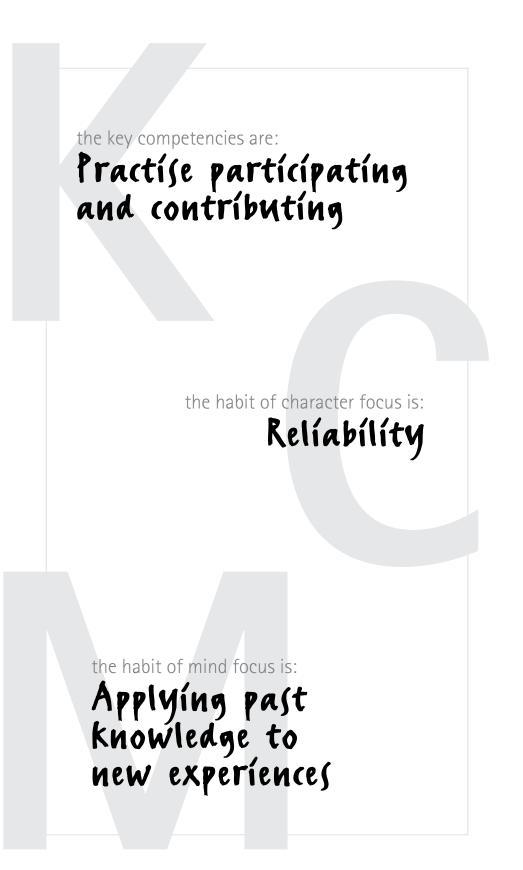
The Bible makes it clear that celebration is to be an important part of our lives. Through the prophets, God gave clear instructions about how the children of Israel were to remember and celebrate God's *faithfulness* to them. An important part of their calendar was the Lord's Passover, in which the Jews were to remember God's deliverance of their people from slavery to the Egyptians. Jesus was sharing this festival with his disciples when he laid down the model for a new celebration of God's *faithfulness* – the Lord's Supper or Communion.



God wants us to celebrate his *faithfulness*. Remembering and celebrating God's goodness to us in the past gives us confidence about God's goodness to us in the present, and ensures that future generations will continue to recognise God's *faithfulness* to them.

"The living, the living — they praise you, as I am doing today; parents tell their children about your faithfulness" *(Isaiah 38:19).*

If you are new to *Interact* resources we invite you to turn to Appendix I to learn about the Interact Learning Path on which this Teacher Manual is based, and to gain additional planning help. KEY COMPETENCIES | HABIT OF CHARACTER | HABIT OF MIND



the big idea is: **God ís faithful** and wants us to be faithful

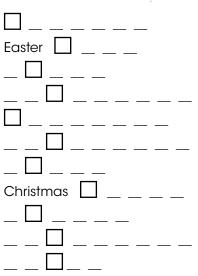
the key understanding is: It is good to celebrate God's faithfulness together

the focus question is: What do people celebrate and why?

What Can You Find?

Read the clues to find things that are hidden in the picture, and then write the secret word that tells us when these things might be seen or used.





We light these We hunt for these We raise these We watch these in the sky We blow into these and tie them up We wave these We eat these We decorate these We string these up and turn them on We hang these up We sing or play to make this

Use the secret word to complete the sentence: We might see or use any of these things at a special __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

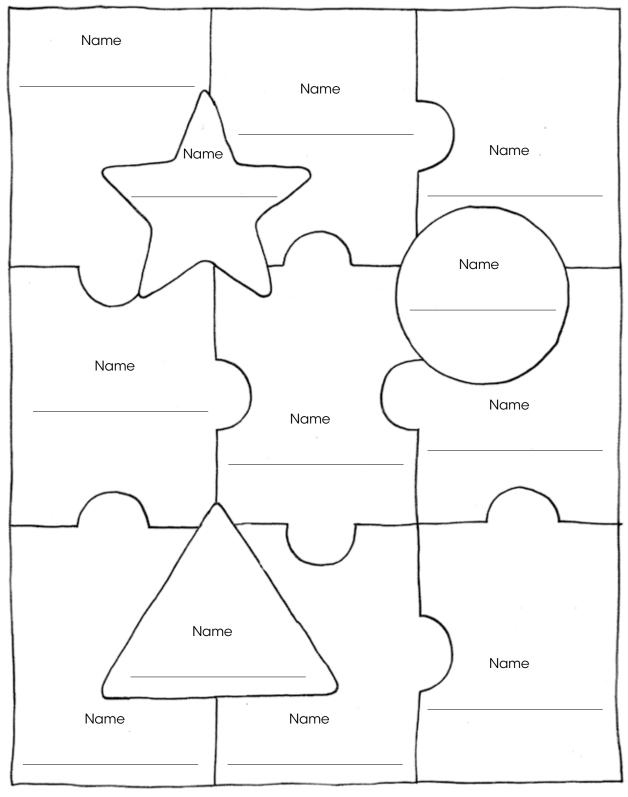
My Jigsaw



7

Recall

Write your name on each of the shapes below. Paste this page onto light cardboard. When it is dry, draw a picture of a special celebration that you have enjoyed, on the cardboard side. Use the lines below to cut your picture into a jigsaw puzzle for someone else to assemble. Cut carefully!



Name:

22	A Family Celebration	Ċ
An importai	nt family tradition or celebration in my family is	

We celebrate this because _____

We celebrate it by _____

	⊒ 7
THIS PICTURE SHOWS MY FAMILY CELEBRATING	T
A PHE AND	5
Special things we do are	
	_
This celebration is important to me because	
	_
- AL	

Recall

Can You Guess?

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List things associated with celebrations under the following headings, and then complete the questions below. Each of the answers will be a word you have written in the boxes. Invite a friend to see if they can guess which words are the answers to which questions!

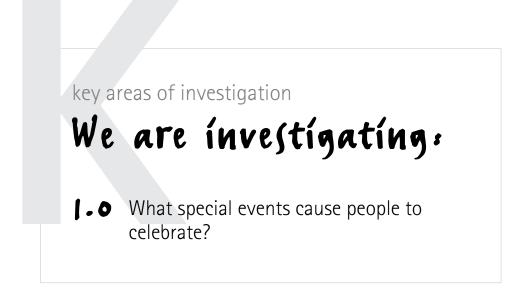
Names of celebrations	Something you might see or use at a celebration
Things you might do at a celebration	Something you might eat at a celebration

Question

Answer

?

- 1. What is the celebration called when people
- 2. What is a celebration that starts with the letter ? 3. What is something celebrated in the month of ? 4. Where would you see a _____? 5. Where would you use a _____? 6. What celebrations need a _____? 7. When would people _____? 8. What might people do at a _____? 9. When would people _____? _____ 10. What celebration food is _____? 11. What food might you eat at a _____? 12. What celebration food has ? Name:





Celebrations

6

Research

People everywhere celebrate things that are important to them. Celebrations tell us what people believe and value. Use the categories below to sort the information you gather about different celebrations.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	·····		000-1-
Type of Celebration	Name of Celebration	When it is Celebrated	Who Celebrates
Things from the past			
Things in the present			
Things that are important to remind ourselves about			ellee

12 Name: _

Wedd	dings
covenant made before God. He is a witne	portant covenant of marriage. They are a ess. Ask someone in your family about their ceremony.
l asked	about their wedding ceremony.
What wedding covenant vows did they make?	
What gift or reminder of the covenant was give Who were the witnesses?	en? (rings etc)
To think about: Why is a marriage covenant so important?	

Name: _

Ē

2

Research 13

### My Family Celebrates

Being part of a family group is important, and many families like to celebrate special events together. What kind of celebrations does your family like to celebrate?

Look at the headings below and ask your family to help you list celebrations in each box that you enjoy together. Explain when you celebrate each event and why it is important to your family.



			[ miner
	What we celebrate	When we celebrate	Why we celebrate
Special milestones			
Remembering special events			
Special achievements			
Things my family believe are important			

key areas of investigation

# We are investigating:

**2.0** How do people celebrate?

### Let's Decorate!

Wherever people are celebrating, you will find decorations of some kind being used. Decorations are often very brightly coloured and beautiful, making everyone who sees them feel happy.

People like to put decorations in their houses and gardens or in the local community, to tell everyone that they are celebrating something that is important to them. Sometimes, people even decorate themselves, wearing special clothing and colours or painting their skin in traditional ways.

Since ancient times, people have put up decorations when they celebrated. At first they did it to make their 'gods' happy, because they thought that if they did not, bad things would happen to them. Some people would decorate trees when they lost their leaves in winter, because they thought the bright colours would encourage the 'tree spirits' to make the leaves grow again.

Draw or write your answers to the questions about decorations used as part of celebrations, in the boxes below.

What decorations make you feel happy?	What decorations are used in houses, garden and communities?
How do some people decorate their bodies for a celebration? Why?	Some decorations tell us what people believe. Can you give an example of this?
16 Name:	

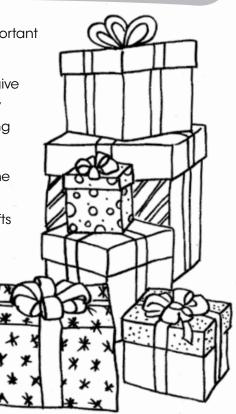
### **Giving Gifts**



Giving gifts to each other has always been an important part of celebrations.

Cards are sent, or things are lovingly made or chosen to give to family and friends. Sometimes, people give their time by presenting a voucher that gives a promise to do something special for that person.

The wise men brought presents for the baby Jesus when he was born in Bethlehem, but people believe that gift giving began long before that. Long ago, people gave simple gifts like twigs or vegetables they had grown. Over a hundred years ago, people in England gave gifts using a tradition they called 'cobwebs'. Each family was given a coloured string which they had to follow through a maze of other strings, to find the present at the other end. Some families gathered around a large bowl of grain and took turns dipping their spoon in to find the treats hidden there.



What are some other gift-giving traditions that are part of people's celebrations?

Why do you think that giving gifts is an important part of celebrations?

Name:



### Festive Food



Food is an important part of celebrations everywhere. Sometimes, people prepare special feasts of traditional dishes as a part of their celebration, and at other times they may fast, which means that they eat very little.

### Christmas and New Year Festivals

All around the world, people have developed the custom or habit of serving certain foods at Christmas time. An English tradition is to bake fruit mince tarts and fruitcake, and to eat roast meats like turkey and ham. A Canadian and American custom is to bake gingerbread and pecan pie, while in Russia, many people bake twelve different dishes to represent Jesus' disciples.



In Scotland, haggis is shared as a part of New Year celebrations. In Spain, some people pop a grape into their month for every chime of the clock at twelve midnight.

What food does your family traditionally eat at Christmas or New Year?

### Birthday Celebrations

Children in Mexico celebrate their birthdays by the sharing of a piñata, which is a papiermâché container in the shape of an animal and filled with lollies. In some parts of Africa, it is a custom to eat a dish made from fried plantain, which is a kind of banana.

What foods are a part of birthday celebrations in your family?

### Wedding Feasts

When people are married in Italy, little bow-shaped pieces of dough dipped in sugar are served, because they represent good luck. In Indonesia, noodles are shared because they are said to give the new couple long life.

What foods are served at wedding celebrations in our country?

18 Name: _

### **Traditional Feasts**

In the Bible, God told the Jews that they were to prepare certain foods to eat as a part of their celebration. In the boxes below, record some information about foods that are part of different celebrations around the world.

Fool	Food	
Food:	Food:	
Country:		
Celebration:	Celebration:	
Description:	Description:	
	][	
	[]	
, 		~
Y		{
Food:	Food:	
Country:		
Celebration:	1/	
	8	
Description:	Description:	
	[]	
$\sim$	<u></u>	
Food:	Food:	
Country:	Country:	
Celebration:		
Description:	11	
	/	
· · ·		
		{{<}}
Name:		la (a arch



### **Our Traditions**

Ask your parents, grandparents or family friends about the different things that they make or do, places they go and see, or events they participate in as part of a celebration.

Gather your information to complete the statements below.

[	(name) said, "When we celebrate	`
we like to		
because		
l		
2		
	(name) said, "When we celebrate	
we like to		
because		
<u> </u>		″)
		J
	(name) said, "When we celebrate	
we like to		
because		
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### Christmas Stories & Symbols

Christmas is a very important time when we remember the birth of God's son. Jesus was born in a stable to Mary and Joseph, and came to tell us and show us about God's faithfulness. Today, there are many different symbols that have become a part of Christmas celebrations, but many of us do not think about where they came from.



The story of **Santa Claus** begins with a bishop called Saint Nicholas. He tossed pouches with gold coins through the windows of needy people in his town. In Holland, children called him *Sinterklaas* and would leave their wooden shoes by the fireplace for him to place treats inside. Eventually, *Sinterklaas* became known as Santa Claus.

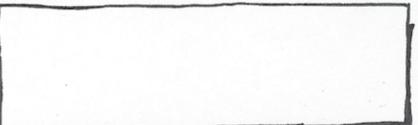
**Candy canes** were first made to look like a shepherd's staff and remind us of the shepherds who came to visit the baby Jesus. The red is a symbol of Jesus' blood and the white is for his purity.

**Lights** and **candles** are to remind us that *Jesus is the light of the world.* Jesus said that people who follow him will have the *light of life.* 

**Christmas stars** and **angels** are a reminder of the events that happened at the birth of Jesus. A star came to rest over the stable where Jesus was, and angels sang "Glory to God in the highest."

**Christmas wreaths** are the shape of circle. Circles have no beginning and end -just like God. He always existed, and always will.

The red and green colours of **holly** also remind us of Jesus. The red of the berries helps us to think about the blood that he shed on the cross when he died for our sin. The green of the leaves reminds us of evergreen trees, a symbol of the eternal life that God gives to those who are faithful to him.



#### Name:

you about?

key areas of investigation

# We are investigating:

**3.0** Why is celebrating important for people?



A celebration that is important to the Jewish people is _____

It is called this because	TRE FRE
It is to remind them of	
They celebrate it by	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
	0
The people involved are	

HERE IS A PICTURE OF PART OF THEIR CELEBRATION. IT SHOWS ...

What we could learn from this celebration is _____

24 Name: _

Talking to Older People	Ċ
Talk to an older person in your family about his/her life and sp	pecial events.
I talked to An important event in his/her life was	
A special time he/she likes to remember is	
A tradition or celebration he/she keeps is	
He/she does this because	
Something that is different between	and me is
Something similar between	and me is
A Contraction of the second of	

### **Christian Celebrations**

Christians everywhere remember four important celebrations: Communion or the Lord's Supper, Baptisms, Christmas and Easter. Can you answer these questions?

What do Christians remember at communion or the Lord's Supper?

How do Christians celebrate this event?

Why is it important for Christians to celebrate this event?

What do Christians remember at baptisms?

How do Christians celebrate this event?

Why is it important for Christians to celebrate this event?

What do Christians remember at Christmas?

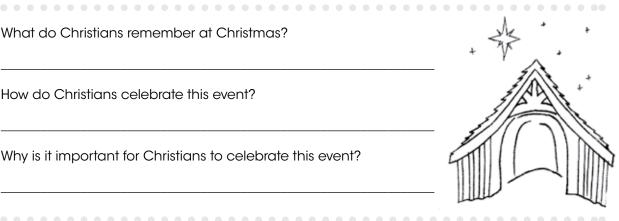
How do Christians celebrate this event?

Why is it important for Christians to celebrate this event?

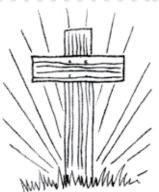
What do Christians remember at Easter?

How do Christians celebrate this event?

Why is it important for Christians to celebrate this event?



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Research



# We are investigating:

**4.0** How can we help people to celebrate important things?

### A New Celebration

Recall a time when God showed His faithfulness to someone in your family. Think about a new celebration that you could begin in your family to celebrate and remember a time when God showed His faithfulness to you.

Our new celebration would be to remind us of _____

We could celebrate it by ____

I think this would be a good family celebration because _____

The people involved could be _____

HERE IS A PICTURE OF WHAT WE COULD DO TO CELEBRATE GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO US

### Celebrating Together

In the Bible, we read some stories that Jesus told to help people

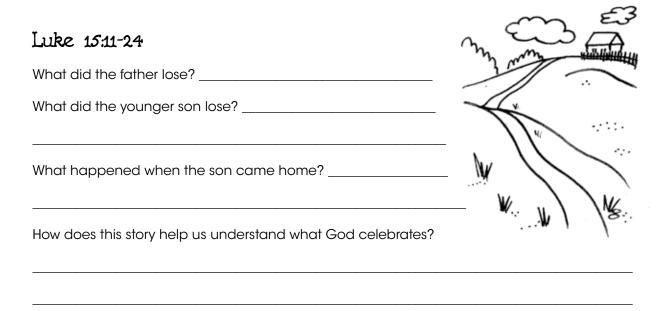
understand what God celebrates. Read what he said to help you answer the questions about how we can celebrate together.

#### Luke 15:1-7

	And End Cristing
What did the man lose?	- The share i
What did he do to find it?	- Silon
What did he say when he found it?	$\underline{\qquad}$
How does this story help us understand what God celebrates?	

#### Luke 15:8-10

What did the woman lose?	
What did she do to find it?	JEC N
What did she say when she found it?	880
How does this story help us understand what God celebrates?	0



God celebrates whenever people choose to be faithful to him, and we should too!

### A Reason to Celebrate

Think of celebrations that you share with your family, your friends, your community or your country. For each celebration, write a reason to celebrate that reminds us of God's faithfulness.

to celebrate that reminds us of God's faithfulness.		
NV VVV	$\nabla \nabla \nabla \nabla \nabla $	
What we celebrate	We can celebrate because	

#### 30 Name: _

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Celebrating God's Faithfulness
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Celebrations are a good way to remind us of God's faithfulness. How has what you have learned about people and celebrations, changed how you feel or think, or what you will do and say in the future? Talk about your learning with your teacher, and then complete these statements.

God has been faithful to me by _____

When I think about the ways that God has been faithful to me in the past, I feel _____

Before I learned about the ways different people celebrate, I thought that _____

Now I know that _____

Now that I have learnt about God's faithfulness to me, I am going to _____

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I am going to tell other people about _____

When I think about what I have learnt, I think that is really important to remember that _____

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Name:	Resolve 31