

FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS · GRADES 4–6

World Religions Calendar

Major festivals through the year

Major festivals by month

Month	Festival	Religion
January / February	Lunar New Year	Cultural (East Asian)
February / March	Holi	Hindu
March	Easter (varies)	Christian
March / April	Passover (varies)	Jewish
March / April	Vaisakhi	Sikh
April / May	Eid al-Fitr (varies)	Muslim
April	Buddha Day (Vesak)	Buddhist
June / July	Eid al-Adha (varies)	Muslim
September / October	Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur	Jewish
October	Diwali (varies)	Hindu / Sikh / Jain
November / December	Hanukkah (varies)	Jewish
December	Christmas	Christian
December / January	Bodhi Day	Buddhist

Why do dates vary?

Many religious calendars are based on the LUNAR cycle (the moon) rather than the SOLAR (sun) calendar most countries use day-to-day. So Easter, Eid, Diwali, Lunar New Year all 'move'



a bit each year. The Islamic calendar is purely lunar, so Muslim festivals shift through the year over time.

Discuss

1. Many religions have a major festival around the WINTER solstice (Dec 21). Why might that be?
2. Many spring festivals (Easter, Holi, Passover) involve themes of renewal. Why?
3. Should public holidays in your country represent ALL major religions equally? How would that work?

