

International Conversation Afternoon

Festivals and Celebrations

Introduction

Think of three festivals / celebrations that are celebrated in your country and be prepared to talk about them.

In your groups, talk about your festivals and those of the other students, you should talk about these things:

- Origins:
 - What do you know about the history of this festival / celebration?
 - Are the origins of this festival / celebration religious or superstitious?
 - Are there any new festivals / celebrations in your country's calendar?
 - Where did they originate?

Look at the pictures on the handout. Some of them are specific to a particular festival, others are more general. You should talk in your group about which ones you celebrate or know about, even if they are not from your culture.

Also, think about the following:

- Traditions:
 - How do you celebrate this festival?
 - Is how you celebrate this festival different from how your parents or grandparents celebrated it? Why has it changed in this way?
 - How does an activity become a tradition? Have you made any traditions in your family?
- The 21st century:
 - What is the importance of this festival / celebration in today's society?
 - How do you think this festival / celebration will change in the future? Why?

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- o Why are local festivals and celebrations important?

Discussion

In your groups, discuss the following question:

In this increasingly global and mobile world, is it important to protect festivals and celebrations and their history for future generations?