



# 1.1 Who Celebrates what, and why? Festivals of Light

Religions – Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam.



Key Vocabulary	
Religion	What someone believes and how they show it in their lives.
Christian	People to follow the teachings of Jesus and believe He is the Son of God.
Jewish	People who follow the teachings the Tanakh, or Jewish Bible.
Muslim	People who follow the teachings of the Qur'an and the Prophet Mohammad. They believe in one God, whose name in Arabic is Allah.
Hindu	Someone who follows the Hindu religion.
Festival	A religious celebration
Celebration	An enjoyable event to mark something special
Bible	Christians' holy (special) book
church	Christian place of worship.
Christmas	festival celebrating Jesus' birth.
Advent	The month leading up to Christmas
Christingle	A decorated orange which symbolises Jesus.
synagogue	Jewish place of worship.
Jesus	A religious teacher Christians believe to be the Son of God.
Hanukkah	Jewish Festival of Light
Shabbat	Jewish day of rest
God	The being who created the universe
Diwali	Hindu festival of lights
Mosque	Muslim place of worship
Eid-ul-Fitr	Festival celebrating the end of Ramadan
Ramadan	Muslim month of fasting and giving to charity.

	Lights	Food	Stories	Other
<b>Jewish Shabbat</b>	Candles for Friday night dinner	Challah bread, wine	The 7 days of creation	Special prayers No work Family time
<b>Muslim Eid-ul-fitr</b>	The new moon	Sweets dates		New clothes, visit the mosque for prayers, time with family Mehndi hand patterns. Celebrates the end of the month of the Ramadan fast
<b>Hindu (and Sikhi)Diwali</b>	Diva lamps Fireworks	Sweets	Rama and Sita	Rangoli patterns, cleaning the house, new clothes, presents, time with family
<b>Jewish Hannukah</b>	Hanukiah – 9 branched candelabra	Donuts and latkes – fried food	The miracle of the Temple lamp	Dreidel for chocolate coins, visiting the synagogue, lasts for 8 days
<b>Advent</b>	Advent wreath	Chocolate calendars	The Christmas Story	Getting ready for Christmas calendars
<b>Christingle</b>	Christingle candles	Oranges – the world. Sweets – the fruits of the world	The Christmas Story	Children's church service, raises money for Children's society. Each part of the orange represents part of the Christmas story and looks forward to Easter.
<b>Christmas</b>	Candles and lights	Christmas dinner Mince pies	The Christmas Story	Presents, church, family time, carols

**Big Questions**  
 What makes a day special for you? What special days does your family celebrate? Do you prefer to be in the dark or the light? Why is light a good symbol?

- Many religions celebrate festivals of light. In Europe festivals of light brighten up the long, dark winter months.
- Light is often a symbol of good overcoming evil, hope and new beginnings.
- Festivals and celebrations often involve special songs special stories, special food, special clothes, presents and family traditions.
- Non-religious families have celebrations such as birthdays, baby showers, weddings, where friends and family get together to enjoy each other's company. Non-religious people may also celebrate religious festivals.