

Spring Festivals / the Equinox

Teacher's notes



Learning objectives (E1 / E2)

- Ask and answer questions to get a meaning / explanation
- What does _____ mean?
- Can you explain _____?
- Use words about celebrations – celebrate, special, festival, eat, drink, visit, wear
- Talk about time – days, weeks, months, seasons, years, century, leap year, new moon, full moon.
- Discuss what different festivals have in common.

Planning notes – this lesson embeds **numeracy** (calculating number of hours etc), **diversity** (variety of festivals from around the world and from different cultures and religions, including religious and secular festivals) **British Values** (mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.)

Materials

1 vocabulary collection sheet per learner; 1 text per learner; 1 question sheet per learner; 1 consolidated text per learner; 1 PowerPoint presentation.

ACTIVITIES

Handout vocabulary collection sheet – instruct learners to write any new words on this sheet. Explain this will be needed for their homework.

1 Warmer – acronyms – 7DIAW, 24hiad 4siay 100yiac

Elicit / scribe “What does this mean?”

Learners work in pairs / small groups to solve (1 at a time on the board, or use the PowerPoint).

7 days in a week

24 hours in a day

4 seasons in a year

100 years in a century (check learners are using vocabulary collection sheet)

Elicit / model / scribe “**What does century mean?**”

2 Question acronyms – HMWATIAY – 52, HMMATIAY – 12, HMDATIAY – 365, HMDATIALY – 366

How many weeks are there in a year? (check for “are there” / “there are”)

How many months are there in a year?

How many days are there in a year?

How many days are there in a leap year?

Elicit / model / scribe “**Can you explain** “leap year”?

Differentiation / extension – HMHATIAY – How many hours are there in a year – challenge learners to work out the total (8760) or HMMATIAD – How many minutes are there in a day (1440)

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3 The Equinox

Show question "WITVE?" – elicit "I don't understand", "What does this mean?", "Can you explain?"

Put answer on the board (or use ppt).

It is one of two days in the year when daylight hours and night-time hours are equal – 12 hours of daylight, 12 hours of night.

Some learners may know "equinox", but probably you will need to scribe the question "What is the Vernal Equinox?". Check for use of meaning questions before explaining / showing explanation.

"What does Vernal mean?" Vernal – Spring

"Can you explain Equinox?" Equinox – 12 hour day/night

Final question "WITVE?" – explain that this is a different "W" question – "When is the Vernal Equinox?"

Show answer – either 20 March or "today" / "tomorrow" etc

4 Reading about equinox celebrations

Hand out text (three festivals –Purim, Holi, Shunbun No Hi).

Read – jigsaw reading (one text each). Complete the Question Sheet for one or two other festivals.

"What is the name of the festival?"

"Which people celebrate this festival?"

"When is it?"

"How long does it last?"

"What do people do?"

"What kind of festival is it?"

5 Discussion

Hand out consolidated text.

Small group or whole class – What is the same / similar about these festivals? What is different? Teach "they have X **in common**" eg "They are all for families – children and adults. They have colours in common. They are all in the Spring. This year, they have the date in common. They are all celebrated by many people."

NB Some learners may celebrate Nowruz, which also falls on the equinox. It is a Persian / Iranian festival, celebrated in many countries.

6 Plenary

Compare vocabulary collection sheets (pairs).

One thing I learned today. I would like to know more about.

7 Homework – practise spelling or write sentences (differentiate task / quantity) using new words on vocabulary sheets.