

Celebrations

Celebrations are special occasions which bring people together in harmony. Festivals are part of our culture and heritage. They are important celebrations in the religious calendars of all faiths.

Sharing food is often an important part of celebrating a festival within the family or as a community occasion. Here are some examples of food associated with festivals.

Christian

An egg is an ancient symbol of new life. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. Decorating eggs is a tradition that dates back hundreds of years when Christians fasted during Lent.

They decorated eggs to mark the end of fasting and ate the eggs on Easter Day as a celebration.



Sikh

Vaisakhi in April is an ancient Sikh harvest festival marking the beginning of the new year - a new harvest season.

Lavish banquets are held as part of the festivities following noisy processions through the streets.



Muslim

Eid ul-Fitr celebrates the end of Ramadan. There is a special Eid prayer when Muslims give thanks to Allah. They have a special meal with family and friends. People give gifts, dress in their best clothes and give money to charity.

Jewish

Preparing for the **Passover** meal of celebration is a very special time. This commemorates Israel's freedom from slavery in Egypt. It also celebrates the freedom of the Jewish people.



Sikh and Hindu

Diwali is the festival of lights which are a celebration of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance.

Special foods especially sweets are eaten and exchanged as



Festivals: times of celebration

Guided by the Agreed Syllabus, schools have access to a wealth of resources on the **major religious festivals**. For example, excellent videos and activities may be found at:

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05pc1c9

BBC - My Life, My Religion

www.retoday.org.uk/school-support

www.natre.org.uk



The Hindu festival of Holi

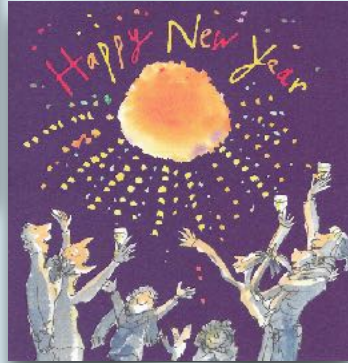
Greetings!

People of religion or no religion often send cards to family or friends to celebrate a special occasion.



The British New Year is always January 1st.

A New Year celebration may, or may not, be connected with religion.

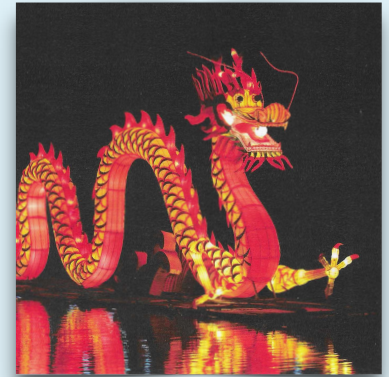


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The date of the Chinese New Year (*right*) changes but is always between Jan 21st and Feb 20th.

It is when there is a new moon.



Woodmansterne

Although cards may be bought, they can also be hand-made. Hand-made cards become extra-special to the person who receives the card, because it shows that you care enough to have taken the time and trouble to make something that is unique! Making cards is a great fun activity.



Greetingles

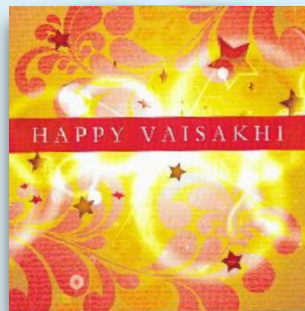
These six cards celebrate special festivals in the religious calendars of six different faiths.

Choose the one you would send to a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew, a Sikh, a Hindu and a Buddhist. Find out which month you should send them.

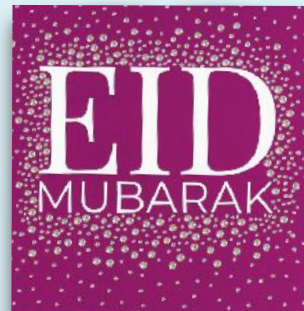
There is one card which could be sent to a Hindu or Sikh. Which one and why?



English Gems



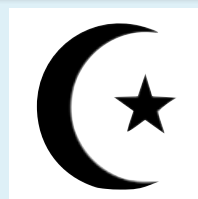
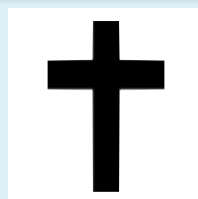
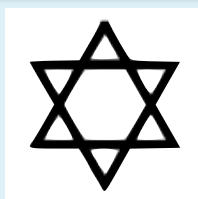
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Easternprintstudio



Which symbol is associated with each of these religious festivals?



For School Visits to Places of Worship resources: visit website: birmingham-faith-visits.theartssociety.org