

# CITIZENSHIP

## Teacher's Guide: GRADE 7 - Lesson 6

### Exploring Cultural Celebrations and Festivals

#### Competency (according to TLS), Element and Performance Criteria

- **Element 1:** Demonstrate an understanding of the uniqueness of individuals while recognising the shared norms, values and beliefs that form our collective Mauritian identity through cultural practices and civic engagement.
- **Performance Criteria Level 1:**
  - Identify key cultural practices unique to different ethnic groups in Mauritius.
  - Describe common norms, values, and beliefs shared by Mauritians.
  - Explain the significance of major Mauritian festivals.
  - List examples of how different cultural practices contribute to the collective Mauritian identity.
- **Performance Criteria Level 2:**
  - Understand the interplay between individual uniqueness and shared cultural norms in shaping Mauritian society.
  - Evaluate the impact of cultural diversity on social and civic life in Mauritius.
  - Compare and contrast the cultural practices of different ethnic groups in Mauritius and their contributions to the national identity.

#### Purpose of activity

This activity is designed to foster cultural awareness, appreciation, and inclusivity among students by encouraging them to explore and share the diverse cultural celebrations and festivals observed in their families and communities. Through collaborative learning, students will gain a broader understanding of the cultural richness that exists within their classroom and the wider society.

#### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- Recognise the importance of cultural celebrations in shaping identity and community values
- Identify cultural practices and celebrations across different months of the year
- Develop empathy and appreciation for traditions different from their own
- Strengthen their ability to work collaboratively and communicate effectively

#### Resources and Materials for part 1 of the activity

- Whiteboard/Blackboard
- Markers/Chalk
- Student Worksheets
- Scissors
- A calendar featuring cultural or religious celebrations in Mauritius
- Annex 1: List of Celebrations and Festivals
- Annex 2: Celebrations and Festivals Cards

**Teaching trajectories/ Implementation guidelines**

*It is recommended to provide students enough time for discussion and sharing. This activity may be extended over 2 or more periods.*

**Step 1: Oral Questioning – Introduction to Celebrations and Festivals**

- Begin with a class discussion using guiding questions:
  - What are some cultural celebrations or festivals that you enjoy?
  - Why are these celebrations important to you or your family?
  - How do you usually celebrate them?
- Record students' responses on the board to create a visual list of celebrations.

**Step 2: Group Work – Identifying Celebrations and Festivals**

- Divide students into small groups (2 – 3 students per group).
- Assign each group one month of the year.
- Distribute one "Celebrations and Festivals Card" (Annex 2) to each group.
- Students will:
  - Research and list the names and dates of celebrations and festivals for each month.
  - Choose one celebration or festival to explore in more detail. They can write or draw about the celebrations or festival.
- Annex 1 which consists of most of the celebrations and festivals can be provided to help students identify relevant celebrations for their assigned month(s).

**Step 3: Group Presentations**

- Each group presents their findings to the class.
- Presentations should include:
  - The name and date of the celebration or festival.
  - A brief explanation of why and how it is celebrated.
  - Any personal or community connection to the celebration.

**Step 4: Closure and Consolidation**

- Ask students to bring the following for the next session:
  - Pictures, newspaper or magazine cuttings related to the celebration or festival they selected.
  - A sheet of Bristol paper or kitchen paper for creating a collage/poster.
- Encourage students to reflect on what they learned about other cultures and how it made them feel.

**Assessment**

- Participation in oral questioning and group discussions.
- Completion of the Student Worksheet.
- Contribution to the group presentation.
- Creation of a group collage/poster showcasing one celebration or festival with visuals and written content.

## List of celebrations and festivals

# CALENDAR

## JANUARY

1<sup>st</sup> New Year  
18<sup>th</sup> Thaipoosam Cavadee  
22<sup>nd</sup> Chinese Spring Festival  
24<sup>th</sup> International Day of Education

## FEBRUARY

1<sup>st</sup> Abolition of slavery  
Thimithi  
15<sup>th</sup> Chinese Lantern Festival

## MARCH

8<sup>th</sup> Holi  
8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day  
Maha Shivaratree  
12<sup>th</sup> independence and Republic Day  
22<sup>nd</sup> World Water Day

## APRIL

7<sup>th</sup> World Health Day  
Eid Ul Fitr  
Easter

## MAY

Mother's Day  
15<sup>th</sup> International Day of Families  
22<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day

## JUNE

5<sup>th</sup> World Environment Day  
Eid Ul Adha  
21<sup>st</sup> Music Day  
21<sup>st</sup> International Yoga Day

## JULY

7<sup>th</sup> World Chocolate Day

## AUGUST

12<sup>th</sup> International Youth Day  
Ganesh Chaturthi

## SEPTEMBER

8<sup>th</sup> Pilgrimage Father Jacques Desire Laval.  
29<sup>th</sup> Mid Autumn Festival (chinese)  
Ghoon

## OCTOBER

Divali  
5<sup>th</sup> Teachers' Day

## NOVEMBER

2<sup>nd</sup> Arrival of Indentured Labourers

## DECEMBER

10<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Day  
Thimithi  
25<sup>th</sup> Christmas

Other celebrations that can be added:

(i) birthdays (students), other religious ceremonies