

Celebrations Matter

Read how celebrations honor people, beliefs, and history.

2.12.A “identify the significance of various ethnic and/or cultural celebrations; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each celebration name. Circle the words that tell why each celebration is important.

Three Meaningful Celebrations

- ① At Lunar New Year, many families welcome a new year on a calendar used in several Asian cultures. People may share a reunion meal, clean their homes, and give red envelopes. These actions bring families together and express wishes for good luck.
- ② During Diwali, many Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists celebrate in different ways. Families may light small lamps called diyas, share food, or visit loved ones. For many people, the lights stand for hope and the victory of light over darkness.
- ③ Juneteenth marks June 19, 1865, when news of freedom reached enslaved people in Galveston, Texas. People may gather for music, food, learning, and community events. The celebration honors freedom and helps people remember an important part of Black American history.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do Lunar New Year actions help families?

2 What do the lights during Diwali stand for?

3 Why is Juneteenth significant?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a cultural celebration not named in the reading. Write two sentences. Name it and tell what people honor, remember, or hope for during it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each celebration name. Circle the words that tell why each celebration is important. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Lunar New Year actions help families?	They bring families together and express wishes for good luck.
2	What do the lights during Diwali stand for?	They stand for hope and the victory of light over darkness.
3	Why is Juneteenth significant?	It honors freedom and helps people remember an important part of Black American history.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nowruz is a spring celebration in Iranian and other cultures. It welcomes a new year and new beginnings. Accept answers that state a celebration's meaning or purpose from the passage. For Your Turn, accept accurate celebrations and a clear explanation of why the celebration matters.