



Harvest Festivals

by Gare Thompson

Overview

This book describes how different cultures celebrate the harvesting of their crops.

Literacy Focus

High Frequency Words

chief, colors, crops, farming, fields, food, people, village, world

Content Words

harvest, celebrate, festivals, India, Holi, wheat, bonfires, Ghana, yam, flour, feast, pilgrims, Thanksgiving

Word Attack and Vocabulary Skills

- Adding the suffix *-ly* to make adverbs
- Decoding compound words
- Adding *-ed* or *-d* to form the past tense

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- Comparing and contrasting harvest festivals
- Drawing conclusions
- Following a sequence of steps (in a recipe)

Book Parts and Text Features

- Contents page and index
- Captions
- Locator maps
- Recipes

Writing/Speaking and Listening

- Discussing similarities and differences among cultures
- Discussing origins of celebrations
- Writing facts about festivals

Observe/Assess

See *Multiple-Choice Test* in the Assessment Handbook, page 63.

Social Studies Focus

Content and Thinking Skills

- Understanding that celebrations differ across cultures
- Making links to personal celebrations and customs
- Focusing on the importance of the celebrations to each culture

Background Information

Throughout history people around the world have celebrated the times when their crops are ready to be harvested. Different cultures have developed unique ways of acknowledging their hard work and giving thanks for their food. By comparing harvest festivals, we learn about different cultures

and also recognize similarities that exist among the peoples around the world.

Correlation to National Standards Social Studies

- Culture
- Global Connections

See *Standards Chart* on page 142.

Literacy Focus

Set the Scene

Have children tell what they think the words *harvest* and *festival* mean. Ask children to think about any festivals they have attended. Record their ideas on a chart.

Read and Discuss

Cover, Title Page, and Contents Page

Have children talk about the idea that different countries have different festivals. Ask:

Why might countries have festivals?

Who might be part of these festivals?

Have children read the entries on the contents page and predict what the chapters might be about.

Pages 3–5

Read the title and have children tell why good crops would be important. Ask:

Why do farmers grow crops?

What happens if a crop is not good?

Pages 6–11

Read the pages and discuss the new information. Ask:

What is the festival of Holi?

What country has this festival?

Encourage children to think about the meaning of the legend of Prahlad and Holika.

How have these rituals remained until today?

Which part of the legend tells us what it is really about?

Read the recipe on page 11 and discuss the format.

Pages 12–17

Read the pages and use the strategies outlined above. Encourage the children to make links between the two celebrations. Note the differences and similarities.

What is a yam?

Where do yam festivals take place?

Pages 18–24

Continue with the above strategies. Encourage children to make links between the three celebrations. Ask:

Who has had a celebration like these at home?

Which parts relate to growing crops?

Respond

- Write these action verbs on the board. Have children add *-d* or *-ed* to make verbs tell something that has happened in the past.

○ celebrate	○ harvest
○ plant	○ cover
○ boil	○ serve
○ roast	○ dance

- Write the adverbs below on the board. Have the children write the words, underlining the *-ly* part of each one: *brightly, completely, newly, loudly*. Then have children find some other examples.



Using Key Words

Activity Master, page 36

Ask children to write sentences that show the meanings of the words on the Activity Master on page 36.



Meeting Individual Needs

For specific teaching strategies for meeting individual needs, see pages 134–139.

Social Studies Focus

Social Studies Concept

Throughout time people have grown crops and celebrated their harvests with different ceremonies.

Activities

A Harvest Flowchart

Have children identify the stages of planting, feeding, harvesting, and storing the crops. Help them record this information on

a flowchart with illustrations and captions.

Further Research

Have children research the festivals of the cultures noted in the book. Ask them to present a fact file for each country under these headings: *Type of crop, Where in the world the country is, What kind of celebration takes place.*

Making Recipes

Have children work in groups under adult supervision to make a recipe from the celebrations. Discuss the results.



Comparing Festivals

Activity Master, page 37

Ask children to compare two of the celebrations, noting similarities and differences on the Activity Master.

Name _____

Harvest Festivals

Use the words in the word bank below to write sentences that show their meanings. The first one is done for you.

celebrate	festival	farmer
harvest	custom	crops

1. In America we celebrate Thanksgiving to remember the pilgrims, who worked hard to grow their crops.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

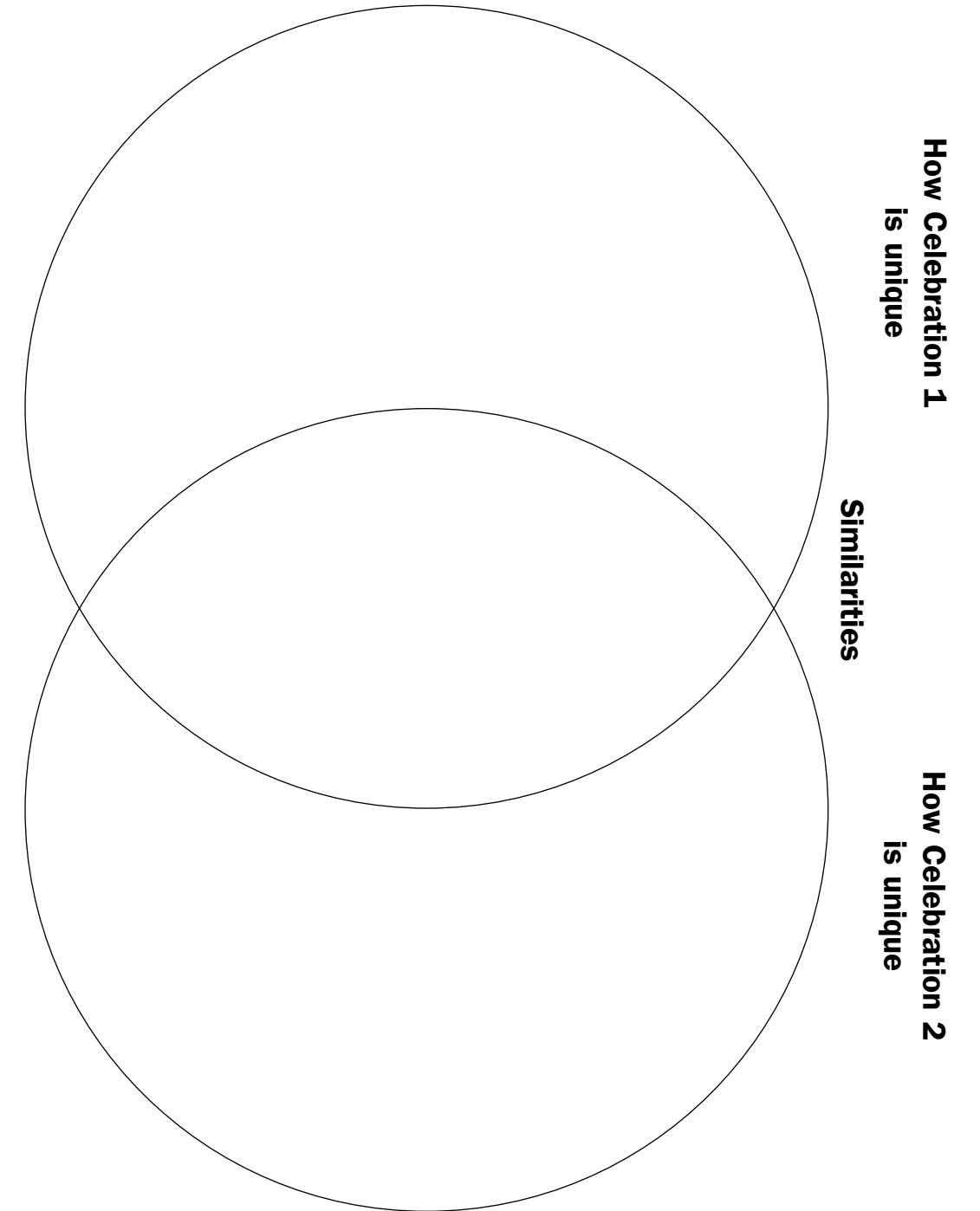
6. _____

© 2003 National Geographic Society

Name _____

Harvest Festivals

There are three celebrations written about in the book. Compare and contrast the information about two of these celebrations to show the differences and similarities. Record your ideas on the diagram.



© 2003 National Geographic Society