



## TOPIC: Respecting Culture

Value	Age Group	Type of illustration
Importance of festivals	G3: 6, 7 & 8	Classroom Discussions

### **Objective:**

To inform students, the importance of celebrating festivals by discussing Advantages of festivals. Festival celebration teaches management skills to humanity like team-spirit, skill development, time management, sense of cleanliness, oneness, inclusion, communication skills, sharing and caring, leadership qualities and also values like humbleness, surrendering to god, creativity, philanthropy with fun and colorful activities.

(Teacher enters the class and greets the students and starts discussions by a question)

Teacher: Namaste students, Today I want to talk about festivals to you all. Can you all please tell me why we celebrate festivals?

(students may come up with many answers like worshiping God, celebrating a historical event, spiritual event, worshipping nature, etc. teacher continues her question.)

Teacher: How do we celebrate festivals ? i.e., what are the preparations that a family does to celebrate festivals ?

(the students may come up with lot of answers as given below or many more)

Student 1: We/parents clean our home before the festival

Student 2: We decorate our homes with flowers too

Student 3: We put Rangoli outside our home and also in the pooja room

Student 4 : We also worship god by chanting Mantras

Student 5: God is worshiped with so many things like panchamrutam, flowers, fruits, agarbatti sticks, lamps etc.

Student 6: Our parents cook delicious food teacher!

Student 7: Lot of guests visit us teacher, we feed them and spend time with them.

(Now the teacher takes up answers one by one and discusses about them. Here also students may come up with many answers. The probable answers are given in front of each question in brackets, which mentions the significance of that particular act. If students can't give these answers, the teacher can suggest it)

Teacher: Okay students, now let's discuss what are the advantages involved in celebrate these festivals.

Let's take one by one. First let's take cleaning the house. Let's consider all of you are participating in cleaning the house. Then,

1. What do you call a group of people working together?  
(team)
2. What are the qualities required in you people to carry out any task together? (team spirit, oneness etc.)
3. If you have to finish cleaning in a given time, what skill should you have? (time management)
4. What do you learn by cleaning the house? (importance of cleanliness)
5. How do you feel after cleaning the house? (happy, etc.)

(The teacher can ask any student to summarize the gist of the answers. The teacher can ask the next question, the probable answers are given in the bracket. These answers are for the teacher to educate children if they can't express them)

Teacher: okay now let's talk about skills required for home decoration.

1. How do you decorate the house and Pooja room?
2. (using lot of materials like flowers, colour papers, colourful clothes, Rangoli powders etc. decorate furniture, walls or doors, to tie torana etc.)
3. What are the creative skills needed to decorate a home ?  
(flower arrangement, Art of Rangoli, paper art etc.)
4. How does the festival help your growth as an individual ?  
(It increases creativity, talent, patience, aesthetic sense)
5. What is the use of developing creativity or skills or these talents for future??  
(in future it can be used in any field like designing, art, theatre, dramatics etc. At least to appreciate what others have created one needs to know how much effort and talent goes into it)
6. What is the flower arrangement skill called and where is it famous?  
(ikebana, Japan)

Teacher: Okay now let's talk about time management learnt by celebrating festivals.

1. Can you develop these skills or talents in few minutes?
2. If not, what is the time taken for you to develop these talents?
3. How do you feel at the end of finishing a creative work?
4. Do you feel the time spent is worth it has taken?

Teacher: okay now let's focus on worshipping God

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1. Why do you worship god?

(Here the teacher can tell few lines about the effect of worshipping God like "By praying God we understand that there is somebody above us who is doing everything to help us, so that we develop a sense of surrender and humbleness.")

2. How do you worship God?

3. What do the prayers contain? (welfare for all)

4. How are the prayers going to help us? (cleanses our mind)

5. What is the feeling/value developed by worshipping God?  
(humbleness.)

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Teacher: Now, Let's talk about how we do puja.

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1. What all we use to do Puja ? (flowers, panchamrut, agarbatti sticks, lamps)

2. When we use all these things, how will the environment look like?

3. What else can you add to this pooja procedures to increase fun as well as holiness? (singing bhajans, dancing with bhajans etc.)

4. Why should we offer all these to God at all, while worshipping God?

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(Here again the teacher can say a few lines to the children like "Everything that is around us belongs to God. So, to thank him, for giving all those things to us , we give back some of the precious things as offerings in pooja to god. That's the way we show our gratitude to god.)

Teacher: Now let's talk about food children, which is of course your favorite isn't it?

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1. Why do we cook special dishes on festival day ?
  2. What should you do before eating the food? And what is it called?  
(surrender it to God ,it's called Naivedyam.)
  3. What is the quality you learn by surrendering food to God ?  
(humbleness, humility , sense of dependency on god)
  4. What is the experience you get while cooking good food and eating it together?

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Teacher: children , now let us see what we learn by mingling with our relatives and friends on festival day?( communication skills.)

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1. With whom do you celebrate festivals?
  2. What is the quality you develop by celebrating festivals with others?  
(communication skills, to get along with others, good manners, good behaviour)
  3. How do you feel when you meet them with your family and friends for celebrations?
  4. What do you learn from them, when you mingle with others?
  5. What are the topics you should talk about on festivals day?  
do you think you should discuss the importance of that festival, how it is celebrated in other parts of the country and world etc., on that day?
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## Quotes:

1. Richness and depth of celebrations, express a culture accurately.
2. Festivals are all about making memories and the best way to preserve those memories is to capture them in words.
3. The greatness of a culture can be found in its Festivals.
4. Festivals, teaches to share joy with each other and is fun for the whole family.
5. Festivals are good for communal unity and harmony.

## Activity

All students should be asked to write down:

1. How did they celebrate any festival in their house?
2. What was their contribution to that festival?
3. What did they learn from it ?
4. How is it useful for their future?
5. Did you learn anything extra other than what was discussed in the class?