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PM

There are many different festivals celebrated around the world each year. Going to festivals can help people to learn more about the art, culture and achievements of other countries, and they're a lot of fun! But what makes festivals the most special is sharing the experience with others.



Information Report/Response

Nelson



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Festivals Around the World
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Festivals Around the World

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are advised that this text may contain the names and images of people who have passed away.

Fantastic Festivals

Festivals are a highlight of people's lives in many parts of the world. Festivals bring people together to celebrate important occasions. A festival can celebrate the achievements of a particular group of people or an event in nature, such as the beginning of a new season. Some festivals are held to celebrate a region's culture, including its art and music.



The Lunar New Year is celebrated in China with a dragon dance.



For Holi, the Hindu spring festival in India, people throw coloured water and powders over one another.

Festivals allow people to experience new things and meet new people they might not otherwise encounter in their daily lives. Most importantly, festivals are a lot of fun!

Matariki Festival, New Zealand

Matariki is the name for the Māori New Year in New Zealand (Aotearoa). Matariki takes place in May, June or July, when the Pleiades (pronounced *plee-ay-dees*) star cluster comes into view in the New Zealand sky in the early morning. Matariki is the Māori name for the Pleiades.

A Māori dance group (Te Wharekura o Hoani Waititi) performs at the 2017 Matariki festival.



The Pleiades star cluster is also known as the Seven Sisters. It appears to be made up of seven bright blue stars, but it actually contains more than 1000 stars.



The haka, a Māori dance performance, is often part of the Matariki Festival.

For Māori people, Matariki has long been a time for families and communities to come together and look back on the previous year. It is also a time to make plans for the year ahead.

Today, people of all backgrounds gather for Matariki to enjoy events that celebrate Māori culture, such as concerts and feasts. Matariki is a public holiday for all New Zealanders.

Lake Bolac Eel Festival (Kuyang Lapakira), Australia

Lake Bolac, in the state of Victoria, Australia, is a sacred site to the Wadawurrung, Girai wurrung and Djab wurrung peoples. For thousands of years, it was a gathering place during the eel migration season, in the months from March to May. At this time, large numbers of eels swam from the lake to the sea to have their young. They swam through rivers, shallow streams and swamps to reach the sea. This was a time of great significance for First Nations peoples. While they met at the lake to catch the eels, they also traded with each other and performed important ceremonies.



Kuyang Lapakira means "plenty of eels".

The southern shortfin eel is found in Lake Bolac.

Now, every second year, the First Nations peoples of the area welcome visitors to Lake Bolac to celebrate the eel season. Visitors to the Lake Bolac Eel Festival share in activities including performances by First Nations artists and workshops that teach visitors about local Aboriginal cultures.



At the Lake Bolac Eel Festival, there is a Twilight Ceremony with dance and storytelling performances.

This sculpture of a brolga was made for the Lake Bolac Eel Festival by local First Nations artists Bronwyn Razem and Dave Jones.