

# Summary: Cultural Celebrations

## Cultural Holidays

People can learn about their history or way of life by celebrating cultural holidays. For example, at the end of December, African Americans celebrate their heritage during Kwanzaa. People gather together for seven days and share customs. Each day stands for a basic truth. People light candles for each truth.

On March 17, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in Ireland. It is a day to celebrate Irish culture. Many people in the United States and around the world also celebrate this day with music, food, dancing, and parades.

Mexicans celebrate Cinco de Mayo on the fifth of May to honor a battle in Mexican history. They celebrate with music, dancing, food, and parades. All cultural holidays celebrate a people's culture.

## Religious Holidays

People think about their beliefs during religious holidays. Many people go to special services in their places of worship. Some people share special meals with their families and friends during this time.

Rosh Ha-Shanah is the Jewish New Year. On this day in the fall, Jewish people think about the past year and look ahead to the new year. Christmas is the day Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus. On December 25, some people give gifts or ring church bells. Muslims celebrate Ramadan. It lasts for one month. During Ramadan, Muslims do not eat during the day. They pray at sunset and then share food.



### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**heritage** *noun*, the history, ideas, and beliefs people receive from the past

**custom** *noun*, something that members of a group usually do



### After You Read

**REVIEW** What does each day of Kwanzaa stand for? Circle the words that tell the answer.

**REVIEW** How are Kwanzaa, St. Patrick's Day, and Cinco de Mayo alike? Highlight the sentence that tells how all these cultural holidays are alike.

**REVIEW** In what ways do people celebrate religious holidays? Draw a box around two sentences that tell how people celebrate religious holidays.