

## Summary: Cultural Holidays

### Cultural Holidays

People can learn about history or different ways of life from cultural holidays. For example, African Americans celebrate their heritage during Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa comes from African celebrations. People light candles for seven days. Each day stands for a principle, such as faith.

Chinese people celebrate Chinese New Year in January or February. They celebrate with a feast, fireworks, and visits to friends. Adults give children money in red envelopes. People light red candles. Red is supposed to bring good luck.

### Religious Holidays

People think about their religious beliefs during religious holidays. People celebrate religious holidays by attending special services in their places of worship. People also celebrate religious holidays by sharing special meals.

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. During Rosh Hashanah, Jews think about the past year and look ahead to the new year. Christmas is celebrated by Christians on December 25 to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Some people decorate trees and give gifts. Ramadan is celebrated by Muslims. It lasts for a 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.

**holiday** *noun*, a time to celebrate a special event or person

**principle** *noun*, a basic truth



#### After You Read

**REVIEW** What can people learn by celebrating cultural holidays? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.

**REVIEW** In what ways do people celebrate religious holidays? Underline two sentences that tell how people celebrate religious holidays.