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.