

HomeTalk

thoughtful conversations for families and schools

Issue 46 – Traditions

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Photo by Tatiana Zanon via Unsplash

Note to parents/carers and teachers

This pack contains links to external websites. Whilst we take every care to make sure these are suitable, you may want to check the content before showing them to children.



To get HomeTalk emailed every week
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This week's focus is traditions

Tradition does not mean that the living are dead, it means that the dead are living.



Harold Macmillan
British politician

We, the indigenous, are willing to combine tradition with modernism, but not at any cost.



Rigoberta Menchu
Guatemalan indigenous rights activist
Nobel Prize lecture 1992

Do not deny the classical approach, simply as a reaction, or you will have created another pattern and trapped yourself there.



Bruce Lee
martial artist, actor and director

Harold MacMillan quote from <https://www.mundifrases.com/tema/tradici%C3%B3n/>
Rigoberta Menchu quote from <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1992/tum/lecture/>
Bruce Lee quote from <https://libquotes.com/bruce-lee/quote/libr0d8c>
Harold MacMillan photo: Cecil W. Stoughton, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons
Rigoberta Menchu photo: Kingkongphoto & www.celebrity-photos.com from Laurel Maryland, USA, [CC-BY-SA 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/), via Wikimedia Commons
Bruce Lee photo: National General Pictures, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Thinking about traditions

Caring thinking

Can traditions help us to feel better sometimes?

Collaborative thinking

Ask people you know which traditions they like most.



Creative thinking

How many traditions can you think of which are about creating something or bringing life to something?

Critical thinking

Do some traditions control us?

Can you remember the last tradition you experienced?
How was it?

Which tradition will you next celebrate?

Are some European traditions similar to those of the Americas?



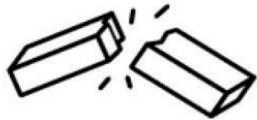
Think **AHEAD**



Think **BACK**



CONNECT



DIVIDE



LISTEN/LOOK



ZOOM (in/out)

What do all traditions have in common?

Do you know how some traditions are celebrated differently in different countries?

Do you notice traditions much? Which details do you most see or hear?

What does your favourite tradition smell like?

Discussion suggestions (age 3 - 5)

Stimulus



vevo

<https://youtu.be/tuCfFiYOsJI>

La Tarara. This song is in Spanish. People traditionally sung and danced to songs like this in many towns in Spain. Versions of the song have been passed from one generation to another. The song was compiled by the poet Federico García Lorca in 1931.

Talking Points

- Do you understand this song? Even if you don't understand it, what do you think of the sound?
- Have you learned any songs from your family?
- How old are the songs that you know? Did your grandparents also sing them?
- Would you rather just sing, or sing and dance at the same time?

Activities

- Think of a song you like. Sing it, but change some of the words. Teach your friends and family the new version.
- Try to copy the dancing in the video. Maybe you could find some other people to dance in a circle with you!

Discussion suggestions (age 6 - 9)

Stimulus



https://youtu.be/4wQVxj_0Mdo

Tea Ceremony. A special, traditional way of preparing and drinking tea, from Japan.

Talking Points

- What do you notice about the tea ceremony? Why do you think it is done this way?
- Have you taken part in any traditional ceremonies?
- What are the differences between religious traditions and secular traditions?
- What's the connection between tradition and community?

Activities

- Investigate the traditions of your family and the place where you live. Discuss these with your classmates and at home. Are there any traditions that your family has and no-one else has?
- Make up a new 'tradition' for yourself or your family. Design the food, the clothes, the dances and the songs.

Discussion suggestions (age 10+)

Stimulus



<https://youtu.be/sSawpU81cl>

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a celebration of life and death. While the holiday originated in Mexico, it is celebrated all over Latin America with colourful *calaveras* (skulls) and *calacas* (skeletons). Learn how the Day of the Dead started and the traditions that make it unique.

Talking Points

- What did you notice in the video? How did it make you feel?
- How does your family remember loved ones who have died?
- The video says that Día de los Muertos combines two different traditions. Is it a good idea or a bad idea for traditions to change?

Activity

Think of a tradition that you take part in.

- Try to find some information about the history of your tradition. What is it about? When did it first happen? Has it changed over the years?
- You could ask your family, ask in a library, or search online.

Discussion suggestions (age 10+)



Image by Partido Animalista - PACMA - from España, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Activity

In Spain, the tradition **'El Toro de la Vega'** has recently been stopped because of its cruelty to bulls, although some people wanted it to continue.

- Do you think it is fair that a tradition is stopped because it is cruel?
- Should other traditions that harm animals for entertainment be stopped?

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➤ Parent Talk Moves – tips for great conversations with your children

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