

4.5 Festivals of North East India

WARMING UP !

CHIT - CHAT

- (1) Do you like to celebrate festivals?
- (2) Why do you enjoy fairs and festivals?
- (3) What are the different festivals celebrated in our State?
- (4) Do you know festivals which are celebrated in other States?
- (5) What is the relation between seasons and festivals?

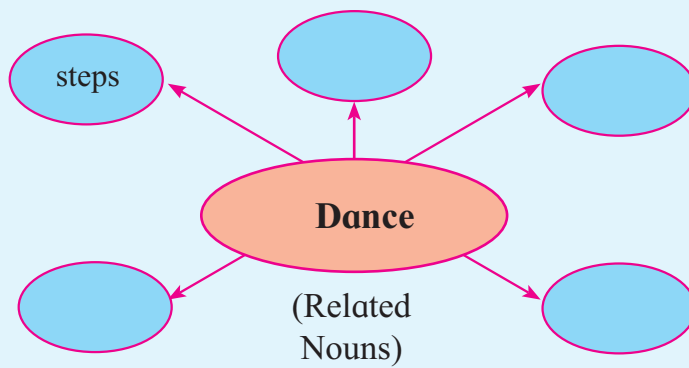
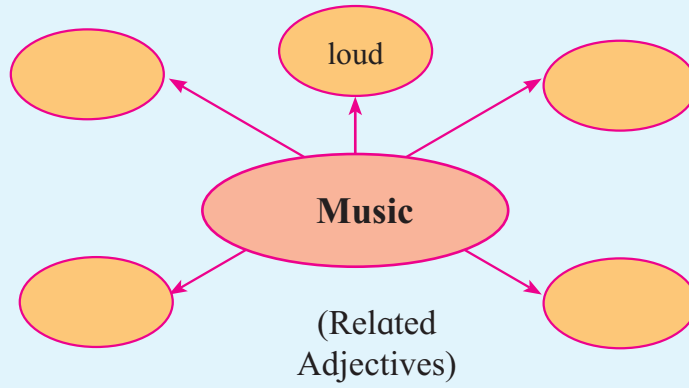
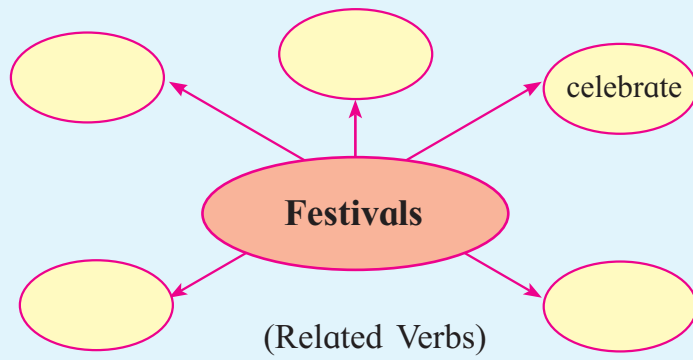
**(1) Read the names of the festivals celebrated in our country.
Discuss in your group and write down why they are celebrated.**

- (1) Diwali
- (2) Holi
- (3) Ramzan
- (4) Dussehra
- (5) Christmas
- (6) Makar Sankranti/Pongal

(2) Write down any five features that are common to all festival celebrations.

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)

(3) Frame words related to the following topics as per instructions.



Festivals of North East India

Read about how different festivals are celebrated in the North-eastern States of India.

The North east region of India, consisting of seven States, is a place of **diverse** cultures. The different communities and tribes celebrate their **unique** festivals with great enthusiasm and joy. Many of their festivals are based on agriculture and no celebration is complete without the traditional music and dance.

Blessed with **lush** greenery and the mighty river Brahmaputra, the people of Assam have a lot to celebrate. So Bihu is the chief festival of this State. It is celebrated by people of all religions, castes or tribes. The three different sets of Bihu mark the beginning of the harvesting season, the completion of sowing and the end of the harvest season.

The Bihu dance is a joyous one performed by both young men and women and is noted for its **brisk** steps and hand movement. Unusual instruments provide traditional music for the dance – the *dhol* which is similar to a drum, the pepa, a wind instrument made from a buffalo horn, cymbals and a bamboo clapper. The songs have been **handed down** through many generations. Bihu competitions held all over Assam attract visitors and locals alike in large numbers.

Living further north in the mountainous region of the Himalayas, Arunachal Pradesh finds a mention in the ancient literature of the Puranas and the Mahabharata. Nature has provided the people of this region with a deep feeling for beauty which can be seen in their festivities, songs and dances.

The new year festival, called Losar is perhaps the most important festival in certain areas of Arunachal. On this occasion, people clean out their homes to bring in the new year and to **discard** the old.

A charming festival of Manipur–Ningol Chakouba–binds and **revives** the relationship between married girls and their parents. The women and their children are given a **sumptuous** feast and gifts. During Cheiraoba, the Manipur new year festival in April, people clean

- **diverse** : of great variety

- **unique** : one of its kind, matchless

- **lush** : rich

◆ *On what occasion are the three sets of Bihu festival celebrated?*

- **brisk** : quick

- **handed down** : passed on to a later generation

◆ *How is Losar celebrated?*

- **discard** : get rid of

- **revive** : refresh and energize

- **sumptuous** : very grand

◆ *Who celebrate the Ningol Chakouba festival?*

and decorate their houses and prepare special festive dishes. As part of the ritual, the villagers climb the nearest hilltops for they believe that this will help them rise to a higher plane in this life.

The Spring Festival or Chapchar Kut is an important occasion, mostly celebrated in Mizoram. Men and women of all ages, wearing traditional dresses and **headgear**, perform folk dances and sing traditional songs on this occasion. Drums, gongs and cymbals add to the festive air!

Wangala or the hundred-drum festival is the most important festival celebrated by the Garos in the villages of Meghalaya. This harvest festival is celebrated to mark the end of a period of hard work, which naturally brings a good harvest. The dance performed during the festival has two parallel lines – one of men and the other of women, clad in their festive costumes. While the men beat the drums, the lines of dancers move forward together in a rhythmic manner.

The main feature of festivals in Tripura is that all the people join in the celebrations. Many of the dances performed during some of the festivities represent hunting, fishing, food-gathering and various other activities. Some of the festivals attract people from all over India.

Nagaland consists of different groups of people who are unique in their customs and traditions and the festivities they celebrate. Songs and dances form the soul of these festivals through which their oral history is passed down. A major festival is Moastu celebrated mainly in the villages after the sowing season. Dressed in colourful clothes and headgear decorated with feathers and wild boar tusks, the villagers dance to traditional music.

Hardly a month passes in any of the seven States without a festival or two. Most of them have a religious importance or significance, as the people offer thanks to the gods for a good harvest to prosperity, or ask for protection against **calamities**. But these celebrations also help to encourage cultural and artistic activities and **bring out** the natural talent of the people.

● **headgear** : what is worn on the head

◆ *How do the villagers dance during the Wangala festival?*

◆ *What do the dances in Tripura festivals stand for?*

◆ *When is Moastu celebrated?*

◆ *Why are festivals so important in the seven-sister States of north-east India?*

● **calamities** : disasters

● **bring out** : to develop and present to public

1. Insert the proper words / phrases in the gaps to make the narration meaningful. Use them in their proper form.

(discard, revive, diverse. handed down, bring out, sumptuous.)

While shopping I suddenly met Lata Shankaran. Meeting my classmate after twenty years our friendship. We spoke on topics, of our past, present and future. We realized that we could not old school memories. She showed me a beautiful ring from her great grand mother. We discussed about how we should the best from our own children. Before we parted, we decided to meet again, that night and have a dinner at a five star hotel along with our families.

2. Correct the wrongly spelt words from the lesson and make a word chain of nouns, with them.

- (1) mannor
- (2) saeson
- (3) natere
- (4) dram
- (5) lacals
- (6) festivel
- (7) erd
- (8) retual

Word chain : Festival - I - - - - -

3. Read the lesson and fill up the table.

State	Chief festival	Reasons for celebrating	Ways of celebrating
Assam			
Arunachal Pradesh			
Manipur			
Mizoram			
Meghalaya			
Tripura			
Nagaland			

4. Choose the appropriate alternatives to complete the following.

- (1) Every festival of North-East India is incomplete without
- (a) food and sweets
 - (b) dance and music
 - (c) lights and crackers
- (2) People of are true lovers of nature and its beauty.
- (a) Assam
 - (b) Mizoram
 - (c) Arunachal Pradesh
- (3) The festival is celebrated three times a year to mark the stages of agriculture.
- (a) Bihu
 - (b) Chapchar Kut
 - (c) Wangala
- (4) In Tripura, the festivities represent
- (a) preparing special dishes
 - (b) reaching greater heights
 - (c) hunting, fishing, food-gathering
- (5) An additional advantage of the festive celebrations is
- (a) listening to festive music
 - (b) bringing out the natural talent of the people
 - (c) getting a holiday from work

5. Pick out the Adjective forms of the following words from the lesson.

- A.** (a) diversity : (d) variety :
- (b) festival : (e) tradition :
- (c) joy : (f) mountain :

B. Pick out the Noun forms of the following words from the lesson.

- (a) complete : (d) rhythmic :
- (b) move : (e) prosper :
- (c) live : (f) green :

C. The 3 words below can be used in sentences as Nouns as well as Verbs. Make sentences of your own, that show the different usage.

- end (Noun)
- end (Verb)

dance (Noun)

dance (Verb)

harvest (Noun)

harvest (Verb)

6. Imagine you are a News reporter visiting Assam / Manipur. Compose a dialogue between you and a village headman seeking information about the celebration of festivals.

Use the following steps.

- Greeting/skillful introduction of the topic/ 5 to 6 sets of dialogue about the topic/ conclusion/ good-bye greeting.

Write the above in your notebook. You may even use additional information from the internet or from some book.

Language Study

- **Change the form of the sentences below as per instructions, without changing meaning or Tense.**

(1) The people offer thanks to the Gods. (Rewrite using present continuous tense.)

(2) Hardly a month passes, without a festival or two.
(Rewrite using 'No' in the sentence.)

(3) The Spring Festival is an important occasion, ?
(Add a Question Tag.)

(4) The Bihu dance is performed by both young men and women.
(Rewrite using 'as well as'.)

(5) The Bihu dance is a very joyous one.
(Rewrite as an Exclamatory Sentence.)

(6) Read about how different festivals are celebrated.
(Frame wh-question to get the underlined answer.)

