

Cool Festivals and Events in the UK

MULTICULTURAL BRITAIN Here in the UK, 8% of our population – that's 4.6 million people are from other cultures or ethnicities. These are some of the multicultural and traditional festivals we celebrate in the UK.

A CHINESE NEW YEAR Chinese New Year is usually at the end of January or the beginning of February. London's Chinese New Year celebrations are the biggest outside of Asia. The centre for these celebrations is an area of London called Chinatown, where there are lots of Chinese restaurants and shops. There are parades, with dragon dancers, concerts of Chinese music and feasts of delicious food. More than 300,000 people come to London to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

B HOLI Hindus celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of spring in March with the festival of Holi. This is also known as the 'festival of colours', as people run through the streets and throw powder and coloured water at each other. By the end of the day, everyone is covered in many bright colours. The UK has a large Hindu community – there are around 800,000 Hindu people in Britain – and the cities of London, Manchester and Birmingham all have big Holi celebrations.

C SUMMER SOLSTICE June 21st is the summer solstice – the longest day of the year. This is one of the most important pagan festivals and more than 20,000 people every year go to the ancient monument of Stonehenge, in south west England to celebrate it. As the sun rises on the morning of June 21st, people sing songs, dance, play the drums or tell stories to celebrate the beginning of summer.

D NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL The last weekend in August is an important date for the Afro-Caribbean community in London. This is the date of the Notting Hill Carnival – Europe's biggest street festival. More than one million people visit Notting Hill for this festival. There are colourful floats and dancers in amazing costumes. You can listen to Calypso music, steel bands and reggae and you can try some spicy Caribbean food.

E DIWALI On November 11th, Hindus, Sikhs and Jains celebrate Diwali – the festival of lights. This is a very popular festival in the city of Leicester, where 28% of the population is Asian or British Asian. Thousands of people go to Belgrave Road – 'The Golden Mile', where there is a big street party with music, food and dancing. At the end of the day, there is a huge fireworks display, with more than 5,000 fireworks, at Cossington Street Recreation Ground.

Glossary:

ethnicity – tożsamość etniczna

multicultural – wielokulturowy

feast – ucztę

powder – proszek

community – społeczność

pagan – pogański

ancient – starożytny

float – platforma używana podczas parady

spicy – ostry, pikantny

display – pokaz

1 Pracujcie w parach. Dopasujcie obrazki do odpowiednich tekstów A–E.



2 Przeczytaj teksty ponownie i dopasuj atrakcje do poszczególnych festiwali lub świąt.

- 1 watch the sun rise _____.
- 2 watch a parade _____ and _____.
- 3 see a fireworks display _____.
- 4 listen to reggae music _____.
- 5 throw coloured water at people _____.
- 6 eat Asian food _____.
- 7 eat Caribbean food _____.
- 8 eat Chinese food _____.



Check your memory

Zakryj tekst i połącz święta i festiwale z datami.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1 June 21 st | a Holi |
| 2 end of January / beginning of February | b Notting Hill Festival |
| 3 November 11 th | c Chinese New Year |
| 4 last weekend in August | d Summer Solstice |
| 5 end of winter | e Diwali |



My turn

Napisz tekst na temat wielokulturowego wydarzenia w Polsce.

- 1 who celebrates it
- 2 why it is important
- 3 what you can do and see there