

Reading #1:

Homowo Festival in Ghana

Word list: yams, ceremony, honor, bless, mashed, corn meal, palm oil, kente cloth

African people have many different harvest festivals. In Ghana, the Yam Festival (Homowo) lasts three days. The festival begins with a ceremony to honor family members who have died. Farmers give thanks to the gods for a good harvest.

Yams are an important food in Ghana. During Homowo, farmers take the yams from the ground and carry them to the village. The village chief blesses the yams. Then people prepare and serve special foods made from yams. Mashed yams with hard boiled eggs are an important part of the festival. People also eat *Kpekpele* which is made from corn meal and palm oil.

During Homowo, people wear special clothing made from kente cloth, which is brightly colored. The festival ends with a big feast. People dance and sing to the sounds of drums.



Reading #2:

Harvest Moon Festival in China

Word list: moon, lunar, moon cakes, harmony, abundance, parades, lanterns, puppet shows



The Chinese Harvest Moon Festival is the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese lunar calendar. It honors the rice and wheat harvests. At this time the moon is brightest. The Chinese people believe this is the birthday of the moon. It is also a time to honor Chang-O, a woman who flew to the moon. People believe you can see her when the moon is full.

Another story is that flowers fall from the moon when it is full. The flowers bring good luck.

Moon cakes are the traditional food to eat at this time. During the Chinese Moon Festival, families get together to look at the full moon, a symbol of luck, harmony and abundance. Adults eat many different kinds of moon cakes with a good cup of hot Chinese tea. Along with the moon cakes, children have parades with lanterns, and puppet shows. The Chinese Moon Festival is also celebrated in Taiwan, Singapore, and Vietnam.



Reading #3:

Holi in India

Word list: full moon, grains, fasting, colored powder, sweets, rhythm

Holi is a harvest celebration at the end of spring. People in India celebrate Holi in early March every year. The celebration is always on the day after the full moon. It is one of the most colorful Indian festivals.

People light fires to show the end of the cold winter.

Then they offer grains from the harvest to the fire. During the festival, there is prayer, fasting and feasting. People run in the streets and throw colored powder and water at each other. Everyone exchanges greetings. The older people give sweets and money to the younger people, and everyone dances together to the rhythm of the drums.

This is a celebration of joy and hope, which all Indians enjoy.

