Why are Festivals Important to Religious Communities?

Key Vocabulary	
Festival	A day or time of celebration, usually for religious reasons.
Sacred	Having a very special purpose.
Holy	Pure and good.
Rituals	A ritual is a sequence of activities involving gestures, words, actions, or objects, performed in a sequestered place and according to set sequence. Rituals may be prescribed by the traditions of a community, including a religious community
Eid al-Fitr	Eid al-Fitr, also called the "Festival of Breaking the Fast", is a religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide that marks the end of the month-long dawn to-sunset fasting of Ramadan.
Ramadan	Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community.
Easter	The most important and oldest festival of the Christian Church, celebrating the resurrection of Christ and held between 21 March and 25 April.
Diwali	A Hindu festival with lights, held in October to November. It is particularly associated with Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity, and marks the beginning of the financial year in India.

Key Questions

What religious celebrations do you know about?

What do Christians celebrate at Easter?

Why do Muslims celebrate the end of Ramadan?

What can we learn from celebrations and festivals?

Why is Diwali significant to Hindus?

Key Knowledge

We will be learning about different religious celebrations and festivals in this unit. We will be thinking about why they are celebrated and why they are important to each religion.

What do Christians celebrate at Easter?

Identifying symbols e.g. a palm leaf, hot cross bun, an empty cross Key events in Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday.

Why is Diwali significant to Hindus?

The story of Rama and Sita and the struggle between bad and good.

Diwali to help Hindus overcome temptation

The story of Diwali is helpful to Hindus because it helps them think about the temptations they face.

Muslims celebrating the end of Ramadan.

Muslims believe Ramadan and fasting helps them feel closer to God.

Key Symbols

