

Celebrate your local festival in an environment friendly way



INTRODUCTION

Religious festivities play an important role in most people's lives. However growing human populations and ever increasing commercialisation of most of these festivals are creating an impact on the environment. Pollution of water sources, effect on local wildlife, health impacts on humans and depletion of resources are some of the more commonly seen impacts. The lessons encourage dwelling into the problem of commercialisation and religious festivities, reading and researching information pertaining to the topic, classroom interactions, group work and communicating about the topic through an article or a photo story.

The lesson plan also provides platform for exchange of learning across different countries as part of twinning opportunities.

Objectives:

Students will be able to

- relate to growing commercialisation and pollution associated with festivities globally.
- observe a litter free, environment friendly local festival of their choice within their school.
- identify and promote a traditional practice which is more sustainable in context of the local festival identified.
- Document and disseminate the festival as a video.

YRE steps: Investigate, Research Solution, Report, Disseminate

Curriculum Linkage: Science/ Environmental Studies/Social Science/ Global Citizenship



Young Reporters
for the environment

15-18
Years

Time required/ Duration:

- **Classroom session 1:** 45 minutes for the teacher to do a background introduction and for students to read through two articles followed by group discussion.
- **Group Assignments:** One week for student groups to do an interaction with elders in their communities to understand how festivals were traditionally celebrated at their homes.
- **Classroom session 2:** 90 minutes for group discussion and developing an action plan for observing one environment friendly festival within their school and a script to develop a video case study.
- **Group Event:** One week for preparing themselves for the environment-friendly festivities to be observed at school and one day for the actual event. Video documentation of the entire process.

Resources Required:

- Resource 1 (Environmental Impacts of festivities).
- Resource 2 (Green Festivities-ideas on how festivities could be made eco-friendly). This resource also has 2 video links which should be screened.
- Materials that might be required for celebrating a local festival of their choice in an environment-friendly way.



Activity

Classroom session 1

- Initiate a background discussion to set the context for growing commercialisation associated with festivities.
- Lead a discussion with the help of Resource 1 and 2 and also the relevant videos mentioned there.

Group Assignment 1

- Divide the students into groups of 3-4 members each. Each group should take a maximum of one week to find out some of the traditional practices which were followed along with the festivities by interactions with elders in their communities.
- Guide the students to look at practices which were more sustainable.

Classroom session 2

- Facilitate a group discussion in the class to understand the learnings of the different groups will be a helpful exercise and should be followed-up after the group work undertaken by students.
- Put their ideas together and arrive at one festival which they wish to observe in their school.
- Guide students to develop an action plan for observing a local celebrations of their choice within the school and the plan should include video documentation as a case study.

Group Event 1

- Provide one week to students to prepare themselves for the environment-friendly festivities to be observed at school and process documentation.
- The festival should be observed in a sustainable manner and should be open to students from different age groups to participate in the same.
- The event could be organised as part of the Global Day of Actions and the pictures and videos of the event can be shared with national operators and posted on social media.

Evaluation:

Teachers could evaluate the lesson plan based on the success of the festival and how sustainably it was observed and a film based case study.