

ZAMASAMA PRESENTS

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

Community & Neighborliness

Interfaith Friendship

Cultural Traditions

Celebrating Diversity

Celebrating Festivals

LEARNING OUTCOME

- Recognize that festivals are celebrated around the world in a similar mould or differently, often shaped by local customs and ingredients.
- Reflect on how kindness can bridge cultural and religious differences.
- Learn about the tradition of Maamoul and its cultural significance during Easter.
- Understand that community support is a universal value found in every culture.

LESSON PLAN

Students explore the cultural and emotional meaning of festivals, and interfaith friendship through storytelling, group discussion, and activities.

Discussion Questions

Before Reading:

- What do you know about Easter? What foods or traditions do people follow for this festival?
- Have you ever helped someone celebrate a festival different from yours?

During Reading:

- How does Mrs. Mary feel when she can't bake her Easter cookies?
- Why does Mama Hala decide to help?
- What does baking Maamoul together symbolize?

After Reading:

- What do you think is the most important part of celebrating festivals—food, people, or tradition?
- Can you think of a time when kindness made a celebration more special?

Activities:

- **Maamoul Cookie Art**– Draw or mold your own Maamoul cookies using play-dough or clay and decorate them with traditional patterns.
- **Festival Food Around the World**– Create a chart showing traditional festival foods from different countries and compare ingredients.
- **Kindness Chain**– Write and link paper notes describing one kind thing to do during a festival for someone in your community.

RELEVANT ZAMASAMA STORIES

- [The Best Doll Festival, Ever!](#) – Siblings surprise their mother by continuing a cherished
- [Ismat's Eid](#) – A funny and warm family story about festival gifts and surprises.
- [The Ok Om Bok Festival](#) – A Vietnamese Khmer celebration of gratitude and moon worship.

RELEVANT SDGS

Applicable SDGs:

- SDG 4 – Quality Education
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

SDG Explanation

- SDG 4 – Quality Education: Introduces children to global traditions, encouraging appreciation of diverse celebrations and values.
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities: Celebrates inclusion and equality by showing support across religious and cultural lines.
- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: Models peaceful coexistence, community support, and mutual respect among diverse neighbors.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Broaden students' understanding of religious and cultural celebrations.
- Foster empathy and encourage acts of kindness and inclusion.
- Reinforce that differences in tradition enrich our shared human experience.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams.

Today's children are tomorrow's citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them.

That's why it's vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.