

New Year in China

People celebrate holidays around the world with color and light.

Every year, people from China celebrate the New Year. They wear red clothes. They decorate with red paper. Adults give children presents of "lucky money" in red envelopes.



On the last day of Chinese New Year, there is a big festival. Children carry lanterns in parades. Men carry a colorful dragon through the streets.

These New Year traditions are very old. The Chinese celebrated with these same traditions hundreds of years ago.



Holi in India

Every spring, people in India celebrate a holiday called Holi. Holi is a celebration filled with joy and fun. Families dance and sing in the streets. People build large fires to welcome the Holi celebration.



During Holi, people throw colored powder on each other. The powder is traditionally made with flowers. By the end of Holi, colors cover everyone!



Facts About Dance

All around the world, people dance to celebrate holidays, birthdays, and other special days.

Many cultures have their own dances. The dancers do special steps and often wear special clothes.



The Masai people of Africa do the jumping dance.



In Ireland, people perform the step dance at festivals and on holidays.



Native Americans in North America dance at special celebrations called powwows.



The Bon Odori dance in Japan remembers people who are no longer living.



In New Zealand, the Maori people do the poi dance. During this dance, the dancers swing balls from a string.

Fun with Birthdays and Holidays

Write each word under the correct picture.

candles dance fireworks present

1. fireworks



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



Write in the words missing from this birthday party invitation.

candles birthday party present

* Julio is turning 8 years old! Help him celebrate his birthday.



* Please come to his _____ on June 3.

* Come help Julio blow out the _____ on his cake.

* Please bring a _____ to give to Julio.



* **See you on June 3!**

When is your birthday? What did you do to celebrate your last birthday? Answer the questions on a piece of paper. Use a bilingual dictionary if necessary.

