

# **Festivals and Events - Festivals Around The World**

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## **What happens at Jewish Passover?**

Passover is an important religious festival that Jews celebrate with special prayers and food. It begins with the Seder – a meal and a story about the history of Passover. Passover is the times to Jews were led out of slavery in Egypt by the prophet Moses. The festival lasts for eight days.

## **When is Chinese New Year?**

Chinese New Year is in February. Before the New Year celebrations begin, people clean their homes to chase away evil spirits. During the celebrations people share special meals, give each other gifts and let off fireworks. There are also dances with large dragon and lion outfits. The dragon, a symbol of strength, is thought to repel evil and bring good luck.

## **Why do we eat chocolate eggs at Easter?**

People eat chocolate eggs at Easter because eggs represent new life. Easter Sunday commemorates the day Jesus Christ came to life again, after he was crucified (nailed to a cross). Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. In churches, Christians celebrate by singing special hymns.

## **Did you know?**

Even though Myanmar (Burma) in South Asia is usually dry and hot in April; it is always wet at the New Year, or Thingyan, celebrations because people spray each other with water!

## **What is the festival of light?**

The festival of light, or Diwali, celebrates the coming of the Hindu New Year in October or November. Diwali lasts over five days. Stories told during this time celebrate the victory of good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. People decorate buildings with candles and colored lights, and make delicious sweets.

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