

## **LESSON 1: CELEBRATIONS**

**TOPIC:** Celebrations

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will be able to:

Define the importance of celebrations.

Enumerate different types of celebrations.

Discuss the benefits of celebrations.

### **SYNOPSIS:**

Celebrations are important ways to remember, commemorate, and look to the future usually bringing people together and strengthening relationships. This is the beginning of a unit on Texas celebrations. The Texas Centennial and its Hall of Negro Life were causes for celebration because the hall brought many people to visit it. As a result of the Hall, many changes occurred that reduced segregation in Dallas. For a time, the African American celebrated. Many Whites celebrated but some did not. Sometimes celebrations are short lived.

After learning about what constitutes a celebration and reading the lessons in this unit, analyze them for the characteristics of a celebration. Was it really a celebration? Who celebrated? Who did not participate in a celebration? Were they lasting celebrations?

## **INFORMATION:**

### **Celebrations**

According to Webster's Dictionary, the word celebration means:

- a. To perform (a sacrament or solemn ceremony) publicly and with appropriate rites, like a priest celebrating communion.
- b. To honor (an occasion, such as a holiday) especially by solemn ceremonies like Mother's Day
- c. To mark (something, such as an anniversary) by festivities or other deviation from routine.
- d. To hold up or play up for public notice, like a poem celebrates the glory of nature.

There are many kinds of celebrations. Some celebrations might include the following:

- Anniversary of a school, of a town, being disease free, sobriety
- Birthdays
- Retirement
- Military 'welcome home'
- Adoption date
- Marriage
- Religious conversion
- Anniversary of being in business
- Completing a year of service
- Country's Birthday
- Rites of passage like: Baptism, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Confirmations, First Communion, Quinceañera, Sweet Sixteen, Prom or any other significant rite of passage.
- Graduation
- Engagement/Wedding
- Honors
- Pet birthday/adoption day
- Personal History

## **Celebration Characteristics**

Celebrations typically involve:

- A positive event
- Something to eat and drink.
- Social interaction with others

Celebrations remind us of the past:

- We look at where we have been.
- We remember what we have accomplished,
- We reflect on what's gone well, and what we would do differently.

Celebrations ground us in the present:

- We clarify our progress thus far.
- We can take stock of the people and resources we have in place as we move forward.

Celebrations pave the way for future success:

- We create energy for future efforts.
- We connect with our friends and celebrate shared experiences yet to come.

Celebrations can increase our well-being:

- We feel more supported.
- They can increase our life span.
- They can decrease depression.
- They can possibly reduce anxiety.

## **REFERENCES:**

### **Celebration Defined:**

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/celebration>

### **Health Benefits of Celebrations:**

<https://nypost.com/2023/02/01/celebrating-lifes-best-moments-good-for-our-health-study>

<https://www.earth.com/news/celebrations-are-beneficial-for-health-and-well-being/>

### **Texas Celebrations:**

<https://www.iexplore.com/articles/travel-guides/north-america/united-states/texas/festivals-and-events>

<https://bigtex.com/plan-your-visit/attractions-events/family-fun/>

### **Juneteenth Celebration:**

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/what-juneteenth>

### **Reasons Why to Celebrate and How to Plan it**

<https://businessofstory.com/celebration-habit/>

## **ACTIVITIES/ASSESSMENTS: Choose one**

1. Design a celebration for your school.

What is the name of the event and what are you celebrating?

When would it be held?

Who would be invited?

What kind of decorations would you have?

What foods would you have?

What would be the attire? Who would be the emcee? Would there be a guest speaker?

Would there be entertainment?

Would it be serious or humorous?

How long would it last?

Create a budget for this event.

2. Write a story about a celebration for an imaginary character or item.

Create a name, who or what it celebrates, how it is celebrated and where it is celebrated. List any special events, foods, ceremonies, attractions that connect to your selected character or item.

3. Create a Venn Diagram of things you like and dislike at a celebration.

Determine if any things can fit into both. Analyze why and how.

4. Find pictures of or draw 3 different cultural celebrations. Make a list of what the pictures have in common. How do the pictures reflect our understanding of celebrations?

5. Create a poster with pictures of some of your personal celebrations.

This could include holidays, birthdays, school events. Share with your class.

6. Create a PowerPoint about 3 Texas cultural celebrations. Describe the celebration and its significance. Where it is celebrated and who celebrates it. Provide pictures of some of the activities. Explain how it meets the criteria for a celebration.

## **Questions For Discussion**

1. What is your favorite celebration?
2. Why do you like that celebration so much?
3. Who plans the celebrations in your family?
4. Where do you like to go to celebrate something special?
5. What kind of events does your family celebrate?
6. What is a way you like to celebrate something special?
7. If you had the power, which celebration would you discontinue?
8. If you could create a different celebration, what would it be?
9. How would you change how your family celebrates a certain holiday?
10. What are some events that your state has celebrated or continues to celebrate?