









# My English Reader

Class-VI

Publication Division  
D.A.V. College Managing Committee  
Chitra Gupta Road, New Delhi-110055

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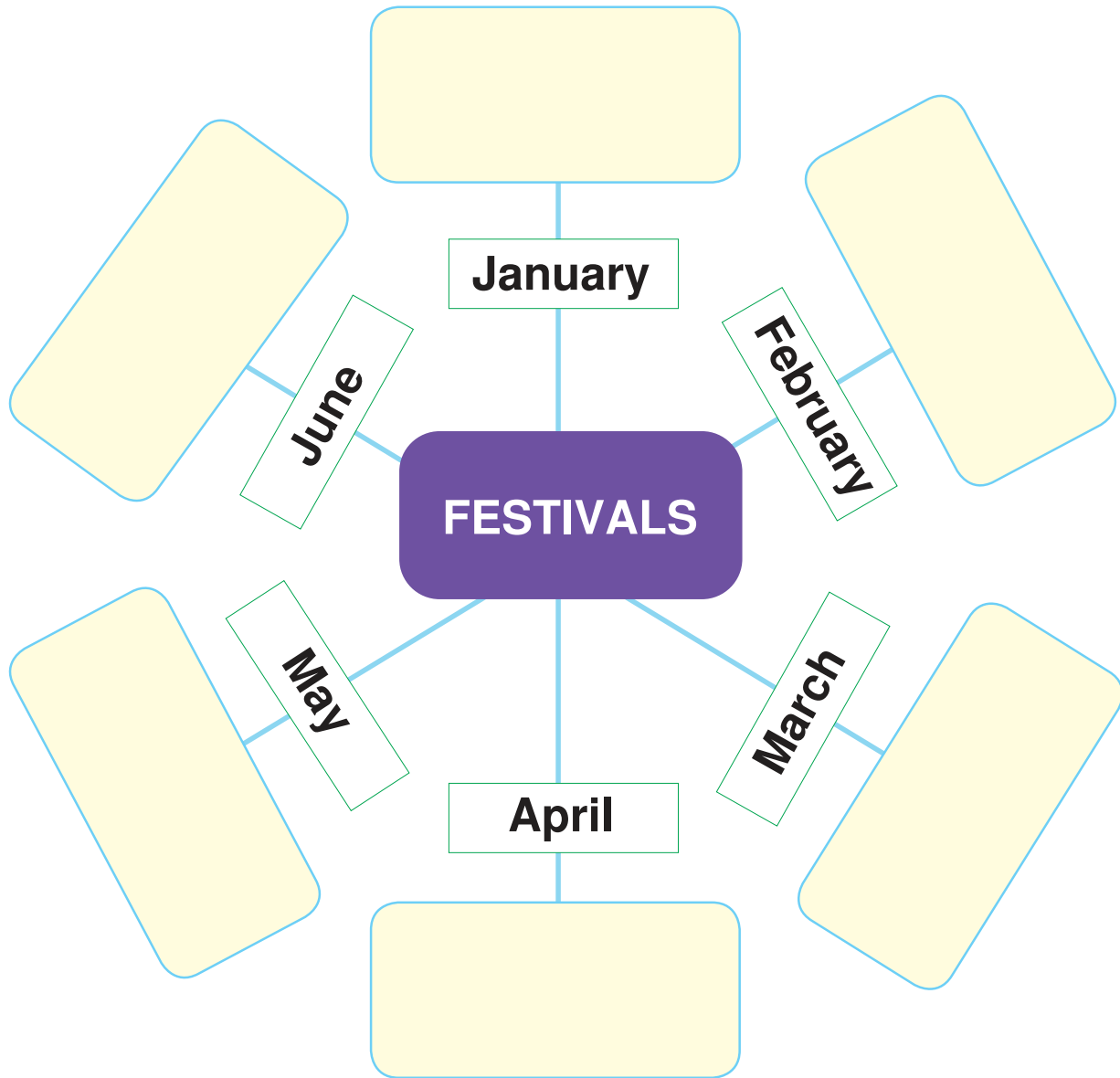


# Celebrations



## Introduction

Festivals are occasions that offer people a chance to celebrate together. Complete the given web chart by writing the names of the festivals (national and international), celebrated during the first six months of the year.





**A.1. Read the encyclopaedia entry given below about Hina Matsuri—a festival of Japan dedicated to girls.**

## Hina Matsuri

1. Seven-year old Sayo in Osaka, Japan looks forward to the third day of March when Hina Matsuri takes place—a day dedicated entirely to girls. Nearly every Japanese girl owns a special set of beautiful dolls, which has either been bought especially for her or has been in her family for many years. The dolls represent traditional Japanese values, such as calmness and dignity, and are intended to set an example that girls can follow.

'My grandparents gave me this kimono. It has so many layers, which makes it quite uncomfortable to wear.'



**AWASHIMA SHRINE**

2. The Japanese believe that a person's illness or bad luck can be transferred to a doll. They, therefore, hold a purification ceremony each year during Hina Matsuri at the Awashima Shrine near Osaka.



3. After the prayers are completed, the boats are set afloat in water. Some people believe that the dolls go to the country of the gods and carry the owner's ill fortune with them.



**CEREMONY OF DOLLS**

4. Huge crowds gather outside the shrine to watch the ceremony, which is called *Nagashi-Bina* (casting the dolls out to sea). The dolls are placed in boats, and after prayers have been said, the boats are led in a procession from the shrine to the nearby sea. Shintoists dressed in religious Japanese robes chant prayers as they follow the path down the sea.

### SAYO'S DOLL DISPLAY

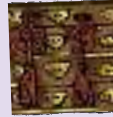
5. Ten days before the festival, Sayo and her mother clean the best room of the house and erect a seven-tiered platform. On the highest step, Sayo's mother places the Emperor and Empress dolls. Beneath them are the rest of the palace staff and on the bottom step is the palace furniture.



Sayo's favourite doll is the beautiful Empress. The Empress is dressed in ceremonial court robe, which is made up of 12 layers of silk.



A polished chest of drawers.



The cherry blossom tree represents the season of the festival.



### TASTY SNACKS

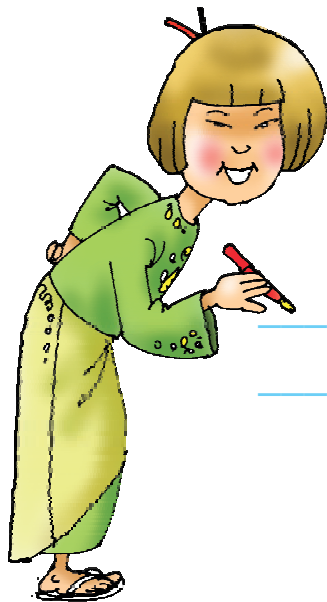
6. One of the traditional foods for Hina Matsuri is pink rice cakes, called *mochi*, which are wrapped in cherry (*sakura*) blossom leaves. These seasonal treats are called *sakura mochi*. Cakes and snacks are also prepared and offered first to the dolls and then to the visitors.



Traditional table with bowls.

A red cotton cloth covers the steps of the elaborate display.

**A.2.** Various beliefs are associated with the festival of Hina Matsuri. On the basis of your reading of the above entry, complete the chart given below.



**Beliefs associated with Hina Matsuri**



The dolls go to the country of the gods.

**A.3. Fill in the blanks with one word/phrase each.**

- (a) Traditional food for Hina Matsuri \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Number of silk layers in the ceremonial robe of the Empress doll \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Venue for the purification ceremony \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) The month in which Hina Matsuri takes place \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) The doll-casting ceremony \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) Qualities that the dolls represent \_\_\_\_\_

**A.4. Values**

Festivals bring us joy and happiness. We all like to celebrate together. But in our society, there are many underprivileged children, who cannot partake in festivities. Enlist a few things you can do for such children so that they can also experience the joy of celebration.

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An **Antonym** is a word that means the **opposite** of another word.

**A.5. Complete the puzzle with the antonyms of the words given below. You can find the antonyms in the encyclopaedia entry—Hina Matsuri.**

<sup>1</sup>				O			<sup>2</sup> E	
<sup>3</sup> T			D				O	
						<sup>4</sup> B		
								T

Across →

- 1. top
- 3. modern
- 4. above

Down ↓

- 1. ugly
- 2. simple or plain



**A.6.** When we think about festivals and celebrations, many words come into our head. A list of few words is given below. Use a dictionary to find their meanings and write them in the space provided.

- (a) festivity \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) carnival \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) gaiety \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) frolic \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) ritual \_\_\_\_\_

**A.7.** Summarising a text means providing appropriate words for long sentences. A useful summary technique is to replace a group of words with one word.

Match each phrase with a word from the box given below. Write the word in front of the phrase.

further	pile	several	most	therefore	easy	to
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- (a) to put one on top of another - \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) as a result - \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) what is more - \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) not too difficult - \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) the majority - \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) in order to - \_\_\_\_\_
- (g) a number of - \_\_\_\_\_

