



*Cultural
Information
Pack*



Contents

	Page number
Cultural calendar	3 - 6
Religions	
Islam	7 - 8
Hinduism	9 - 10
Buddhism	11
Jehovah's Witness	12 - 13
Key vocabulary	
Persian	14 - 15
Bengali	16 - 17
Latvian	18 - 19
Polish	20 - 21
Lithuanian	22 - 23
Nepali	24 - 25
Portuguese	26 - 27
Urdu	28 - 29
Italian	30 - 31
Dari	32 - 33
Albanian	34 - 35
Mandarin	36 - 37

Cultural calendar

Religions within school

Christian - Christmas, Shrove Tuesday (28th February) Lent (1st March - 13th April), Easter

Muslim - Eid (1th September), Islamic New Year (2nd October), Ashura (1th October), Ramadan, ending in Eid-al-Fitr (27th May - 25th June)

Buddhist - Buddha Day (10th May)

Hindu - Navaratri (1-11th October), Diwali (30th October), Holi (13th March), Rama Navami (4th April)

Jehovah's Witness

Ethnicities within school

African

Afghan

Bangladeshi

British - St. Andrew's Day (30th November), St. David's Day (March 1st), St. Patrick's Day (March 17th), The Queen's birthday (April 21st), St. George's Day (April 23rd)

Gypsy/Roma

Latvian - Jani (Summer Solstice), Restoration of Independence Day (May 4th)

Polish - Independence Day (November 11th), Constitution Day (May 3rd)

Lithuanian - *Restoration of Independence Day (March 11th),
St. John's Day (June 24th)*

Nepalese

Portuguese - *St. Martin Day (November 11th), Epiphany (6th
January)*

Indian

Albanian - *Independence Day (November 28th)*

Chinese - *Chinese New Year (January 28th)*

Languages spoken

English

Persian/Farsi

Bengali

Latvian

Polish

Lithuanian

Nepali

Portuguese

Urdu

Italian

Dari

Albanian/Shqip

Chinese/Mandarin

Key events in order

Eid (11th September)

Navaratri (1st - 11th October)

Islamic New Year (2nd October)

Ashura (11th October)

Diwali (30th October)

Polish Independence Day (11th November)

St. Martin's Day (Portuguese) (11th November)

Albanian Independence Day (28th November)

St. Andrew's Day (30th November)

Christmas

Epiphany (6th January)

Chinese New Year (28th January)

Shrove Tuesday (28th February)

St. David's Day (1st March)

Lent (beginning 1st March)

Lithuanian Independence Day (11th March)

Holi (13th March)

St. Patrick's Day (17th March)

Rama Navami (4th April)

Easter (16th April)

The Queen's birthday (21st April)

St. George's Day (23rd April)

Polish Constitution Day (3rd May)

Latvian Independence Day (4th May)

Buddha Day (10th May)

Ramadan (27th May - 25th June)

Jani (21st June)

St. John's Day (Lithuanian) (24th June)

Islam

Key information

- Islam is the second largest religion in the world.
- Muslims believe in one God: Allah.
- God sent prophets to teach us how to live according to His law.
- Jesus, Moses and Abraham are respected as prophets of God.
- The final prophet was Muhammad.
- The holy book is called the Qur'an.
- Muslims worship in the Mosque.

The Five Pillars of Islam

These are the five most important practices that Muslims must follow in order to live a good life:

- **Shahadah:** reciting the Muslim profession of faith, 'There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger'.
- **Salat:** ritual prayers five times a day.
- **Zakat:** paying a charity tax to benefit the poor (2.5% of annual wealth).
- **Sawm:** fasting during Ramadan.
- **Hajj:** pilgrimage to Mecca (at least once).

See

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/practices/fivepillars.shtml> for more information.

Beliefs

There are six main beliefs:

- Allah is the one and only God.
- Belief in angels.
- Belief in the holy books.
- Belief in the prophets.
- Belief in the day of judgement.
- Belief in Predestination.

Holy Days

There are only two festivals set down in Muslim law:

- Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan - celebratory meal, wear best clothes, decorate the home).
- Eid ul-Adha (4 day holiday surrounding sacrifice).

Other celebrations:

- Islamic New Year
- Ashura

More information

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/>

Hinduism

Key Information

- Main religion for the majority of people in Nepal and India.
- No single scripture or commonly agreed set of teachings.
- Believe in a Supreme God (Brahman), represented through multiple deities.
- Existence is a cycle of birth, death and re-birth.
- Reincarnation depends on how the previous life was lived.
- Main holy texts are the 'Vedas'.
- Most Hindus are vegetarian.
- No Hindu will eat beef (cows are sacred animals).

Worship (puja)

- More of an individual act than communal.
- It involves making offerings to a deity. They offer water, fruit, flowers and incense.
- Most Hindus have a shrine at home to make their offerings and prayers.
- Rituals should be performed three times a day.

Key Hindu Deities

- Brahma: creation of the world and all creatures.

- Vishnu: preserver of the universe.
- Shiva: the destroyer (in order to recreate).
- Lakshmi: goddess of wealth and purity.

See

<http://hinduism.about.com/od/godsgoddesses/tp/deities.htm>
for more information.

Holy Days

- Diwali (festival of lights).
- Holi (spring festival of fertility and harvest).
- Navaratri (triumph of good over evil).
- Rama Namami

More information

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/>

Buddhism

Key information

- Focuses on personal spiritual development.
- Do not worship gods or deities.
- Follow the path of the Buddha to reach a state or nirvana/path of enlightenment.
- Believe that nothing is fixed or permanent, change is always possible.
- There are two main Buddhist sects: Theravada Buddhism (Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos) and Mahayana Buddhism (Japan, China, Korea, Tibet).
- The path to enlightenment is through the practice and development of morality, meditation and wisdom.
- The Buddha teaches about the ending of suffering. This can be achieved by following The Eightfold Path:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/buddhism/beliefs/four_noble_truths_1.shtml
- The Dalai Lama is the Head monk of Tibetan Buddhism, a reincarnation of a past Lama to continue his work.

Holy Days

The most important is Vesak (Buddha Day) celebrated in May or early June.

See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/buddhism/> for more information.

Jehovah's Witness

Key information and beliefs

- Christian based religious movement.
- Beliefs and teaching based only on the Bible - 'The word of God'.
- The Bible is historically accurate.
- Do not celebrate Christmas or Easter.
- The battle between good and evil will happen soon.
- God is a single being whose name is Jehovah.
- Jehovah is above all other beings and created everything.
- Jehovah has a son called Jesus Christ. He is not equal to God. Jesus was God's first creation and He created everything else through Jesus.
- Qualities of Jehovah: love, justice, wisdom and power.
- The Holy Spirit is not part of a 'Trinity'. The Holy Spirit is Jehovah's active force through which He accomplishes his will.
- Jesus did not die on a cross, but on a single stake.
- When a person dies, their existence stops completely.
- Missionary work e.g. door to door.

Separation

- 'In but not of the world'.

- Do not take part in: military service, voting in elections, religious festivals, birthdays.

Holy Days

The only observance is the 'Memorial of Christ's Death' on the anniversary of the last supper.

More information:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/witnesses/>

Persian (Farsi)

Hello	Salam سلام
Goodbye	Khodâ hâfez خدا حافظ
Please	Lotfan لطفا
Thank you	Mersi مرسى
Yes	Baleh بلى
No	Nakheyr نكخير
How are you?	Hâl-e shomâ chetawr ast? حال است؟ چطور شما
I'm fine, thank you	Man Khobam, mersi من خوبم مرسى
I'm not well	Hâlam khob nist نىست خوب حالم
Do you speak English?	Shomâ in-gele-sey sohbat mekoneyed مى صدبت از گلايسى شما ك نيد
I don't understand	Nemifahmam فهم نمى
My name is...	Esme man hast هست من اسم
Toilet	سرويس بهداشتى

For pronunciation guide, visit:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/other/persian/guide/phrases..s.html>

Numbers:

1 = ۱ (yek)

2 = ۲ (do)

3 = ۳ (seh)

4 = ۴ (chahaar)

5 = ۵ (panj)

6 = ۶ (shesh)

7 = ۷ (haft)

8 = ۸ (hasht)

9 = ۹ (noh)

10 = ۱۰ (dah)

Bengali

Hello	নমস্কার (nômoshkar) - for Hindus সলামালিকুম (slamalikum) - for Muslims
Goodbye	ভালো থাকবেন। (bhalo thakben) literally 'stay well' - formal ভালো থেকো। (bhalo theko) - informal
Please	দয়া করে (dôya kôre)
Thank you	ধন্যবাদ (dhannobad)
Yes	জি (ji)
No	না (na)
How are you?	(আপনি) কেমন আছেন? ((apni) kêmon achhen?) frm sg
I'm fine, thank you	আমি ভালো আছি। (ami bhalo achhi)
I'm not well	
Do you speak English?	আপনি ইংরেজি বলতে পারেন? (apni Ingreji bolte paren?)
I don't understand	বুঝতে পারি নি। (bujhte pari ni) বুঝতে পারলাম না। (bujhte parlam na)

What's your name?

তোমার নাম কি? (tomar nam ki?)

- *informal*

আপনার নাম কি? (apnar nam ki?)

- *formal*

My name is...

আমার নাম ... (amar nam ...)

Toilet

টয়লেট *Tôyaleṭa*

Numbers:

1 = ১ (aek)

2 = ২ (dui)

3 = ৩ (tin)

4 = ৪ (char)

5 = ৫ (pāch)

6 = ৬ (chhōy)

7 = ৭ (shat)

8 = ৮ (at)

9 = ৯ (nôy)

10 = ১০ (dôsh)

Latvian

Hello	Sveiki
Goodbye	Uz redzēšanos
Please	Lūdzu
Thank you	Paldies
Yes	Jā
No	Nē
How are you?	Kā jums klājas?
I'm fine, thank you	Paldies, labi.
I don't understand	Es nesaprotu
What is your name?	Kā tevi sauc? (informal) Kā Jūs sauc? (formal)
My name is...	Mani sauc ...
Toilet	tualete

For pronunciation guide, visit:

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/latvian.php>

Numbers:

1 = Viens

2 = divi

3 = trīs

4 = *četri*

5 = *piece*

6 = *seši*

7 = *septiņi*

8 = *astoņi*

9 = *deviņi*

10 = *desmit.*

Polish

Hello	Cześć (informal)
Goodbye	Do widzenia (formal) Do zobaczenia Narazie Cześć (informal)
Please	Proszę
Thank you	Dzięki Dziękuję Serdecznie dziękuję Dziękuję bardzo Dziękuję pięknie
Yes	Tak
No	Nie
How are you?	Jak się Pan(i) miewa? (formal) Jak się masz (informal)
I'm fine, thank you	Bardzo dobrze, dziękuję. (formal) Bardzo dobrze, dziękuję. (informal)
I'm ill	Jestem chory
I don't understand	Nie rozumiem
What is your name?	Jak masz na imię

My name is...

Mam na imię ...

Toilet

toaleta

For pronunciation guide, visit:

<http://www.digitaldialects.com/Polish/Phrases.htm>

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/polish.php>

Numbers:

1 = jeden

2 = dwa

3 = trzy

4 = cztery

5 = pięć

6 = sześć

7 = siedem

8 = osiem

9 = dziewięć

10 = dziesięć

Lithuanian

Hello	Labas Sveikas Sveiki
Goodbye	Viso gero
Please	Prašau
Thank you	Ačiū Dėkoju Labai ačiū
Yes	Taip Jo
No	Ne
How are you?	Kaip sekasi? Kaip tau sekasi?
I'm fine, thank you	Ačiū, gerai.
I don't understand	Aš nesuprantu
What is your name?	Kuo tu vardu? (informal) Koks jūsų vardas? (formal)
My name is...	Mano vardas...
Toilets	Tualetas

For pronunciation guide, visit:

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/lithuanian.php>

Numbers:

one (m)	vienas
one (f)	viena
two (m)	du
two (f)	dvi
three (m and f)	trys
four (m)	keturi
four (f)	keturios
five (m)	penki
five (f)	penkios
six (m)	šeši
six (f)	šėšios
seven (m)	septyni
seven (f)	septynios
eight (m)	aštuoni
eight (f)	aštuonios
nine (m)	devyni
nine (f)	devynios
ten (m and f)	Dešimt

Nepali

Hello	नमस्ते (namaste)
Goodbye	नमस्ते (namaste)
Please	कृपया Kṛpayā
Thank you	धन्यवाद Dhan'yavāda
Yes	हो Hō
No	कुनै Kunai
How are you?	तपाईंलाई कस्तो छ? (tapaaii lai kasto cha?) तिमीलाई कस्तो छ? (timi lai kasto cha?)
I'm fine, thank you	मलाइ सन्चै छ । तपाईंलाई नि? (malaai sanchai cha.)
I don't understand	मैले बुझिन (maile bujhina)
What is your name?	तपाईंको नाम के हो? (tapaaiiko naam ke ho?) तिम्रो नाम के हो? (timro naam ke ho?)
My name is...	मेरो नाम ... हो (mero naam ... ho)
Toilets	शौचालय Śaucālaya

Numbers:

1 = १ (ek)

2 = २ (dui)

3 = ३ (tin)

4 = ४ (chaar)

5 = ५ (panch)

6 = ६ (chha)

7 = ७ (saat)

8 = ८ (aath)

9 = ९ (nau)

10 = १० (das)

Portuguese

Hello	<i>Olá</i>
Goodbye	<i>Adeus (formal)</i> <i>Tchau (informal)</i>
Please	<i>Por favor</i> <i>Faz favor</i>
Thank you	<i>Obrigado (m)</i> <i>Obrigada (f)</i>
Yes	<i>Sim</i>
No	<i>Não</i>
How are you?	<i>Como está? (formal)</i> <i>Como vai? (informal)</i>
I'm fine, thank you	<i>Bem, obrigado.</i>
I don't understand	<i>Não compreendo</i> <i>Não percebo</i>
What is your name?	<i>Como te chamas?</i>
My name is...	<i>Chamo-me ...</i>
Toilets	<i>Banheiros</i>

For pronunciation guide, visit:

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/portuguese.php>

Numbers:

1 = *um*

2 = *dois*

3 = *três*

4 = *quatro*

5 = *cinco*

6 = *seis*

7 = *sete*

8 = *oito*

9 = *nove*

10 = *dez*

Urdu

Hello	Assalam-o-Alekum و اسلام علیکم
Goodbye	Khuda-hafiz خدا حافظ
Please	Bara-e-Meherbani مہربانوں سے
Thank you	Shukria شکر ہے
Yes	Jee haan ہاں جی
No	Jee nahin نہیں جی
How are you?	Aap kaiseh hain? آپ کیسے ہیں؟
I'm fine, thank you	Mayen theek hun, shukria! شکر ہے ہوں، ٹھیک ٹھیک میں
I'm not well	May di tabia theek nahin hain ہے نہیں ٹھیک طبیعت میری
I don't understand	Mujhay samaj naheen aae آئی نہیں سمجھ مجھے
What is your name?	(ap ka nam kya hai) آپ کا نام کیا ہے؟
My name is...	Mera naam... hay نام میرا ہے.....
Toilets	ٹوائیٹ

Numbers:

1 = १ (ek)

2 = २ (doh)

3 = ३ (tīn)

4 = ४ (char)

5 = ५ (pānch)

6 = ६ (chhah)

7 = ७ (sāt)

8 = ८ (āṭh)

9 = ९ (nau)

10 = १० (das)

Italian

Hello	Ciao Salve
Goodbye	Ciao Arrivederci
Please	Per favore
Thank you	Grazie
Yes	Sì
No	No
How are you?	Come va? Come stai? (informal)
I'm fine, thank you	Bene grazie.
I don't understand	Non capisco
What is your name?	Come ti chiami? (inf)
My name is...	Mi chiamo ...
Toilets	Gabinetto

For pronunciation guide, visit:

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/italian.php>

Numbers:

1 = uno

2 = due

3 = *tre*

4 = *quattro*

5 = *cinque*

6 = *sei*

7 = *sette*

8 = *otto*

9 = *nove*

10 = *dieci*

Dari

Hello	Salam
Goodbye	Khodahafez
Please	Lutfan
Thank you	Tashakur
Yes	Baleh
No	Na khoob
How are you?	Hal e shoma chetoor ast?
I'm fine, thank you	Man khoobam ,mersi
I'm not well	Na kheili khoob
I don't understand	Motevajeh nemishavam
What is your name?	Esme shoma chist
My name is...	Esme man ...ast

Numbers:

1 = yak

2 = du

3 = se

4 = chahaar

5 = panj

6 = shash

7 = haft

8 = hasht

9 = noh

10 = dah

Albanian (Shqip)

Hello	Ç'kemi Tungjatjeta
Goodbye	Paçim Mirupafshim
Please	Ju lutem (formal) Të lutem (informal)
Thank you	Falemenderit Shumë falemenderit
Yes	Po
No	Jo
How are you?	Si jeni? (formal) Si je? (informal)
I'm fine, thank you	Mirë, falemenderit.
I don't understand	Nuk kuptoj
What is your name?	Si ju quajnë? (formal) Si te quajnë? (informal)
My name is...	Mua më quajnë ... Unë quhem ...

For pronunciation guide, visit:

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/albanian.php>

Numbers:

1 = një

2 = dy

3 = tre

4 = katër

5 = pesë

6 = gjashtë

7 = shtatë

8 = tetë

9 = nëntë

10 = dhjetë

Mandarin

Hello	你好 (nǐ hǎo) - <i>informal</i> 您好 (nín hǎo) - <i>formal</i>
Goodbye	再見 [再見] (zàijiàn) 拜拜 (bàibài)
Please	麻煩你 [麻煩你] (máfan nǐ) 請 [請] (qǐng)
Thank you	謝謝 [謝謝] (xièxie) 感謝你 [感謝你] (gǎnxiè nǐ) 非常感謝你 (fēicháng gǎnxiè nǐ)
Yes	是 Shì
No	沒有 Méiyǒu
How are you?	你好嗎? [你好嗎] (nǐ hǎo ma)
I'm fine, thank you	我很好, 你呢? (wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?)
I don't understand	我聽不懂 [我聽不懂] (wǒ tīngbùdǒng) 我不懂 (wǒ bù dǒng) 我不明白 (wǒ bù míngbai)
What is your name?	你貴姓大名? [你貴姓大名?] (nǐ guìxìng dà míng?) 你叫什麼名字? [你叫什麼名字?] (nǐ jiào shénme míngzì?)
My name is...	我姓 ... (wǒ xìng ...) 我叫... (wǒ jiào ...)

For pronunciation guide, visit:

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/mandarin.php>

Numbers:

1 = 一 (yī)

2 = 二 (èr)

3 = 三 (sān)

4 = 四 (sì)

5 = 五 (wǔ)

6 = 六 (liù)

7 = 七 (qī)

8 = 八 (bā)

9 = 九 (jiǔ)

10 = 十 (shí)