



Celebrations and Special Days

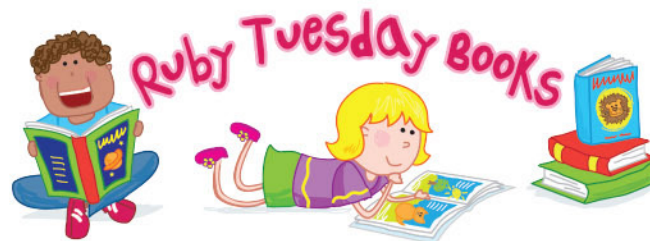
by Ellen Lawrence

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The picture on the front cover of this book shows children in India enjoying the festival of Holi. Turn to page 10 to find out more about these celebrations.



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Words shown in **bold** in the text are explained in the glossary.

All the places in this book are shown on the map on page 22.

Let's Celebrate!

Every year, thousands of different celebrations take place around the world.



During the eight days of Hanukkah, Jews celebrate by lighting candles and giving gifts.

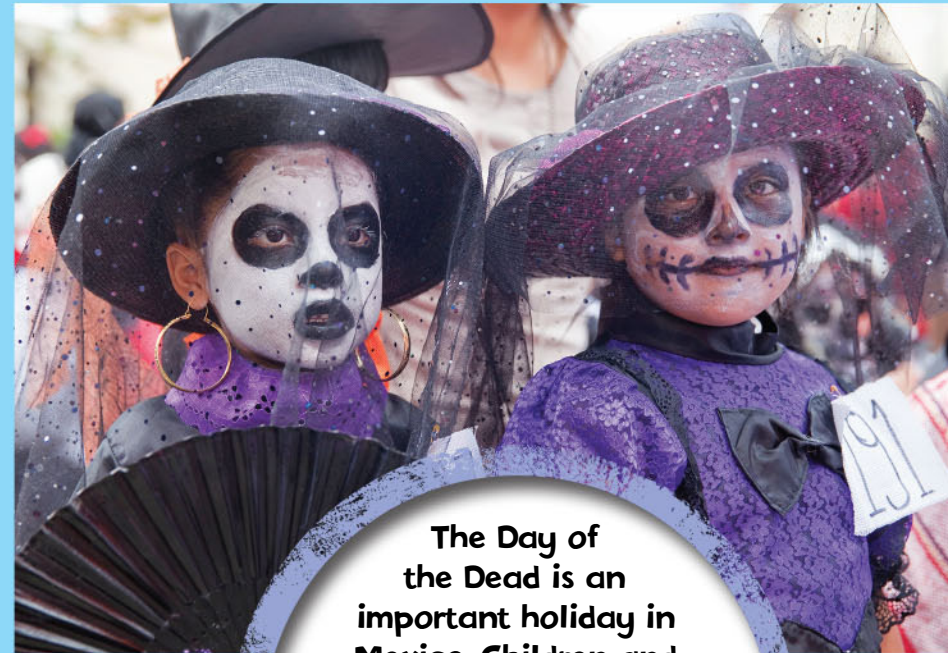


These children in Malaysia are giving a gift to their neighbor at Christmas.

All over the world, children and adults take part in carnivals.



Carnival costumes in Switzerland



The Day of the Dead is an important holiday in Mexico. Children and adults dress up in costumes with skull faces to take part in parades. Families take candles, flowers, food, and other gifts to the graves of their loved ones.



In Australia, Aborigines celebrate their history and **culture** during the Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival.

A Viking Festival

In a town called Lerwick in the Shetland Islands, the new year begins with the Up Helly Aa festival.


About 1,000 years ago, these Scottish islands were home to **Vikings**.

Up Helly Aa celebrates this history with parties and a parade.



Hundreds of people dressed as Vikings walk through the town carrying burning torches.





At the end of the parade, the Vikings march around a huge model of a Viking ship. Then they throw their torches onto the ship and set it on fire. The wooden ship has a dragon's head at one end—just like a real Viking ship.