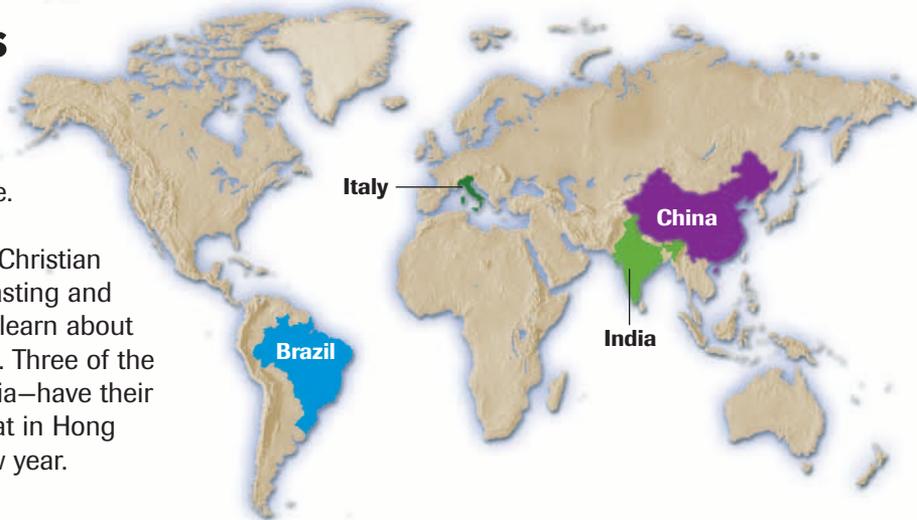


Comparing Cultures

Festivals and Holidays

Different cultures around the world have their own festivals and holidays—occasions for celebration. Often these special days have a religious significance. Carnival, for example, is a period of merrymaking that is celebrated in many Christian countries just before Lent, a season of fasting and penitence. On these two pages, you will learn about this and other festivals around the world. Three of the festivals—those in Brazil, Venice, and India—have their roots in religion. One of the holidays—that in Hong Kong—celebrates the beginning of a new year.



Samba dancers in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, celebrate Carnival by dancing in the streets. Carnival is the period of merrymaking just before Lent.

In Venice, Italy, masks are used to celebrate Carnival, a revel that features elaborate costumes.



The Juggernaut in Puri, India, is a wooden image of the Hindu god Krishna mounted on a cart. The term comes from a Sanskrit word that means "lord of the world." The cart moves on 16 wheels through crowds of Hindu pilgrims on various festival days.



In Hong Kong, a dragon is paraded by a boy to celebrate the New Year. In Chinese culture, the New Year is an important holiday.



GeoActivity

CREATING A POSTER

Working with a partner, use the Internet to research one of the festivals or holidays listed below. Then create a **poster** about the holiday.

- Use visuals and captions to describe the festival or holiday you have chosen.
- Research a different festival and make a second poster to compare festivals from different countries.



RESEARCH LINKS
CLASSZONE.COM

GeoData

FESTIVALS AND HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

RELIGIOUS

Christianity

Christmas
Easter

Judaism

Rosh Hashanah
Passover

Islam

Feast of Sacrifice
Festival of Breaking Fast
Ashura

Hinduism

Holi
Diwali

OTHER

Independence Day
New Year's Day
Cinco de Mayo
Bastille Day
May Day
Kwanzaa
Thanksgiving