

Special days



Let's read

Some of these religious days are on different dates each year. Find out when they will take place this year and write the dates in the spaces provided.

Teacher's note: These religious and special days fall within the third term. You should use three hours during the term to talk about these days. What you do as a class will depend on the religious and cultural composition of the learners in your class and your school policy. The two public holidays should be honoured by all South Africans.

Ramadan: (if the new moon has been seen) is the beginning of the month of Ramadan – an Islamic religious day. Ramadan is a time of fasting, with special prayers and reading of the Qur'an.

Date: **23 April 2020 - Thursday**

Eid-ul-Fitr: (if the new moon has been seen): Eid-ul-Fitr is an Islamic religious festival. This is a joyous but serious celebration of the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan. It is a day of praise, caring for the poor and visiting friends and family. Date: **24 May 2020 - Sunday**

July or August: Raksha Bandhan is a Hindu festival. Hindus celebrate the relationship between brothers and sisters. A sister ties a rakhi (a sacred thread) on her brother's wrist to represent her love and prayers for her brother, and the brother's lifelong promise to protect her. Date: **3 August 2020 - Monday**

August or September: Krishna Janmashtami is a Hindu religious festival. The birth of Krishna Janmashtami is celebrated by fasting. Krishna is a central figure of Hinduism. On this day children usually act scenes from Krishna's life.

Date: **11 August 2020 - Tuesday**

September: Pitr Paksha is another Hindu religious festival. Hindus give respect to their ancestors ("pitrs"), especially through food-offerings.

Date: **16 September 2020 - Wednesday**



Date:

July or August: Tisha B'av is a Jewish religious day. Jews fast to mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, and remember other Jewish tragedies that happened on this day. The day is called the "saddest day in Jewish history".

Date: **29 July 2020 - Wednesday**

September: Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. People blow a ram's horn (called a "shofar") to celebrate the day. They eat foods like apples dipped in honey to show that they are hoping for a sweet life in the new year.

Date: **18 September 2020 - Friday**

September or October: Yom Kippur comes ten days after Rosh Hashanah. It is the most holy Jewish religious day. Date: **27 September 2020 - Sunday**



9 August: National Women's Day – Public Holiday. On 9 August 1956, 20 000 women protested at the Union Building in Pretoria against the fact that Africans had to carry "passbooks". The role of women in South African society is celebrated on this day.

1–7 September: National Arbor Week. People are encouraged to grow trees.

8 September: International Literacy Day. The day highlights the importance of learning to read and write.

24 September: Heritage Day – Public Holiday. All South Africans may celebrate their culture and other cultures.

