

# Traditional Holidays in Transition



Name:

Date:

## Different traditions

AL Ali

Hi Ali! How are you planning to celebrate Nowruz this year?

Hey Sophia! I'm really excited. In Iran, we usually set up the Haft-Seen table with seven items that start with 'S'. What about you?

That's cool! I'm from Azerbaijan, and we also celebrate Nowruz. We usually jump over bonfires and have a big feast with our family.

That sounds fun! My grandparents told me that in the past, people would go to the countryside and have picnics. Do you have any old traditions like that in Azerbaijan?

Yes, my parents said that people used to plant trees and have outdoor celebrations. They would play traditional music and dance all day.

Wow, that's awesome! We still have a lot of traditional music and dance during Nowruz, but it's mostly at home now. Do you know any traditional dances?

Yes, we have a dance called "Yalli." It's really fun and everyone joins in. What kind of dances do you have?

We have a dance called "Raghs-e Shateri." It's very energetic and colorful. I love watching it.

That sounds amazing! I wish I could see it someday. It's cool how Nowruz has different traditions in each country.

Yeah, I agree! It's such a special time of the year. Enjoy your Nowruz, Sophia!

You too, Ali! Happy Nowruz!

Happy Nowruz!

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### How do you celebrate?

Read the chat conversation and talk about it in class: Do you celebrate this traditional holiday, and if so, how? Do you know of any other customs associated with this day?

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## Traditional holidays in different countries

The traditional holiday is celebrated differently in various countries. Can you correctly match the traditions?

**Match the country with the tradition.**

Iran

Afghanistan

Uzbekistan

Kazakhstan

Tajikistan

Azerbaijan

Kyrgyzstan

Turkmenistan

Wearing new clothes

Preparing special bread

Cooking sumalak

Jumping over bonfires

Traditional games

Horse racing

Visiting elders' homes

Planting trees

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Have a look at how traditions associated with the traditional holiday have changed over the course of several centuries.

**Fatima, 1800**



My name is Fatima, and the year is 1800. We celebrate Nowruz in Persia with the Haft-Seen table, which includes items like sprouted wheat, a mirror, candles, painted eggs, and dried fruits. The whole family gathers, and we recite poetry and share stories. It is a time to reflect on renewal and the coming of spring.

Fatima describes the traditional Persian celebration of Nowruz in 1800, focusing on the Haft-Seen table and family gatherings.

**Reza, 1950**



My name is Reza, and the year is 1950. We celebrate Nowruz in Iran with the Haft-Seen table, which now includes items like coins, garlic, and an aquarium with goldfish. Our celebrations also include visiting relatives and neighbors, and exchanging gifts. The spirit of renewal and new beginnings remains central to our customs.

Reza describes the mid-20th-century Iranian celebration of Nowruz in 1950, highlighting the evolving items on the Haft-Seen table and the practice of visiting relatives.

**Leyla, 2020**



My name is Leyla, and the year is 2020. We celebrate Nowruz in Iran with a modern Haft-Seen table, featuring items such as an apple, vinegar, and a Quran. Our festivities include digital greetings to distant family members, and we often incorporate modern elements like fireworks and music concerts. The essence of renewal and celebration of spring continues to be at the heart of Nowruz.

Leyla describes the modern Iranian celebration of Nowruz in 2020, noting the contemporary items on the Haft-Seen table and the inclusion of digital greetings and modern entertainment.

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What important differences can you identify in the way the traditional holiday was celebrated in the past compared to today? Note them down.

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