

Read the text about Nowruz and then do these exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–e next to the numbers 1–5.

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| 1..... Farsi | a. an old name for the country of Iran |
| 2..... Persia | b. the official language of Iran |
| 3..... to symbolise something | c. to do something fun for a special day |
| 4..... to celebrate | d. the season when plants start to grow again after the winter |
| 5..... spring | e. to represent something; to be a sign or a symbol of something |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best option to complete these sentences.

- Nowruz is *always / usually / rarely* on 21 March.
- It's a celebration of the *new year / summer / winter* .
- One of the most important activities to prepare for Nowruz is *studying / watching films / cleaning* .
- People jump over bonfires *just before / on the day of / just after* Nowruz.
- All the objects on the *haftseen* table *are foods to eat / are gifts from family and friends / have names which begin with the same sound* .
- Nowruz *is / isn't* celebrated by Iranian families in the UK.

2. Check your understanding: matching

Match the activities and objects in the box with what they symbolise.

a bright red spice	apples	a sweet pudding
wearing brand new clothes	jumping over flames	coins

- _____ = a fresh start to the year
- _____ = burning away sickness and bad luck
- _____ = sunrise and the spice of life
- _____ = prosperity
- _____ = health and beauty
- _____ = the sweetness of life

3. Check your understanding: multiple selection

Tick (✓) all the correct answers. There are four correct answers for each question.

1. In which countries is there a public holiday for Nowruz?

.....	Iran	.....	Kazakhstan
.....	Afghanistan	.....	the UK
.....	Azerbaijan		

2. Which of these things do people do for Nowruz?

.....	repair broken things	.....	clean the house
.....	prepare a special table	.....	celebrate with the family
.....	wear old clothes		

3. Which of these objects can be found on a *haftseen* table?

.....	coins	.....	a family photo
.....	a sweet pudding	.....	apples
.....	a mirror		

Discussion

Do you celebrate Nowruz? How do you celebrate it?