Harvest festivals are celebrations of the food that grows on the land. They happen at different times of year around the world and are celebrated in different ways. They usually happen around the time that crops are harvested.

**How Is Harvest Celebrated around the World?**

In Britain, Harvest Festival is usually at the end of September. People sing, pray, sometimes go to church and collect food to give to people in need. Some people in Scotland also celebrate ‘Lammas’ where they make bread and take it to church to eat. Italy has olive harvests, where a priest blesses the new oil and they have a feast. In Poland, people celebrate by lighting bonfires and throwing flowers into rivers.

‘Thanksgiving’ is celebrated in America and Canada during October or November. At this time, families have a roast dinner and think about when the Pilgrims shared food with the Native Americans. In Barbados, they have a special ‘Crop Over’ festival in June, with concerts, dancing and competitions. They harvest wine grapes in Argentina, watch amazing parades and enjoy festivals with musicians, food, entertainers, dancers, a Harvest Queen and fireworks.

In West Africa, they have ‘The Festival of Yams’. This usually takes place in August, when they share yams (a type of vegetable, like a sweet potato) and dance. Some people in Thailand have a fruit harvest with competitions, art displays and floats made from fruits and vegetables.
There are many festivals where food is celebrated and shared in India and sometimes cattle are worshipped too. They wear new clothes and sometimes share gifts. During the rice harvest in Indonesia, they have bright flags and make simple bamboo temples and small rice dolls.

The ‘Harvest Moon Festival’ is celebrated in China, when they believe the moon is at its brightest. They enjoy picnics, bright lanterns, mooncakes and puppet shows with friends and family.
Questions

1. What do people in China do to celebrate harvest?
   - think about when the Pilgrims shared food
   - enjoy picnics, bright lanterns, mooncakes and puppets
   - share food, give gifts and worship cattle

2. What are yams?

3. How do people in India celebrate harvest? **Tick two.**
   - They have many festivals which celebrate food.
   - They harvest wine grapes.
   - They sometimes worship cows.

4. Find and copy **one word** which means ‘adored’.

5. Complete the sentence.
   During the ______________ harvest in __________________, they have bright flags and make simple ______________ temples and small ________________

6. Which celebration do you think you would you like to join in with and why?

   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
Answers

1. What do people in China do to celebrate harvest?
   □ think about when the Pilgrims shared food
   ✔ enjoy picnics, bright lanterns, mooncakes and puppets
   □ share food, give gifts and worship cattle

2. What are yams?
   Yams are a type of vegetable, like a sweet potato.

3. How do people in India celebrate harvest? Tick two.
   ✔ They have many festivals which celebrate food.
   □ They harvest wine grapes.
   ✔ They sometimes worship cows.

4. Find and copy one word which means ‘adored’.
   worshipped

5. Complete the sentence.
   During the rice harvest in Indonesia, they have bright flags and make simple bamboo temples and small rice dolls.

6. Which celebration do you think you would like to join in with and why?
   Children’s own answers.