

5. Onam



In India we have many festivals. We all enjoy festivals. In Kerala, Onam is a very popular festival. It comes in August. People worship King Mahabali on that day because he was a kind King. People were happy. They loved and worshipped him like God. The gods did not like this. They took away his kingdom and removed him from there. But the King loved his people very much. He said to the gods, “Please, allow me to see my people.” The gods granted his wish. So, King Mahabali visits his people once in a year. People celebrate this visit as Onam.

People wear new clothes, decorate their homes, eat a variety of items like ‘Payasam’. They also make rangolis of flowers. This type of rangoli is called ‘Kolam.’

Onam is a festival of flowers. Floral decorations are an essential part of the celebration.

The celebration lasts for ten days.

The most exciting part is the Aranmula boat race. People come from many places to watch and cheer the snake boats racing in the water. It is also the time for dancing and sports. This festival is celebrated by the Hindus, the Muslims and the Christians.

People celebrate this festival with great joy.

PRACTICE

1 (A) Find out the words with the nearest meanings:

1. liked by many people _____
2. put on _____
3. necessary _____
4. to make attractive _____



1 (B) Use the words in your own sentences:

kingdom, granted, once, floral, cheer

2 (A) Answer the following questions:

1. In which state is Onam celebrated?
2. When does Onam come?
3. How was the King Mahabali?
4. Why did the gods not like the King?

2 (B) Write a sentence about the following:

1. Onam _____
2. Payasam _____
3. Kolam _____
4. King Mahabali _____