

German festivals

Background information

Summer in Germany is festival time. There are many types of festival that bring people together and entertain them. They are usually outside, with outdoor cafes. There is often free music as entertainment. There are festivals for wine and beer, food festivals, fairgrounds and even a hot air balloon festival.



The Hamburg Dom is one of the most famous festivals, so popular that it now happens three times a year, in spring, summer and winter. It takes place on a large field very near the centre of Hamburg. The summer Dom has a cowboy theme, and the winter Dom has a magical and medieval theme. Each Dom is opened with three cannon salutes by a member of the Hamburg senate. The tradition dates back to the fourteenth century when St Mary's Cathedral (Dom in German) offered refuge to traders, craftsmen and travelling musicians.

The Rhine in Flames takes place over five summer nights, one in July. You can enjoy an amazing firework display from the banks of the Rhine or onboard a boat. Castles and towers are lit by the huge amount of fireworks in the sky. Illuminated ships form a procession along the river. People enjoy the spectacle with some food and some wine.

There are many other festivals, many of them free. There is the *Rheinkultur Bonn*, the *Schlagermove* pop music festival, *Zeltfestival* in Hamburg and *Das Fest in Karlsruhe*. The entertainment is enjoyed by many people, including tourists.

Teaching activities

- ◆ Pupils could use the Internet to research and produce a mind map of all the different festivals in Germany.
- ◆ Pupils could write a diary entry of a trip to one of the festivals.
- ◆ Pupils could design posters advertising one of the festivals.
- ◆ Pupils could draw a plan of a German festival. They could detail what is available in each tent.
- ◆ Pupils could interview each other, pretending they have been to a festival.

Schlüsselwörter

das Fest	festival
das Zelt	tent
das Essen	food
das Getränk	drink
die Musik	music
der Jahrmarkt	funfair

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Pupil Task Sheet

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Name:

Datum:



Design a poster advertising the Hamburg 'Dom.'

Plan a festival in Britain representing all aspects of British culture through the food, drinks and activities.



**And now for some
RESEARCH!**

Investigate and research German festivals. List key facts about them and present to the rest of the class.

Quick quiz

- ◆ Can you describe a typical German Festival?
- ◆ What is the theme of the summer 'Dom'?
- ◆ Which famous festival takes place on the river Rhine?