

ACROSS CULTURES

Food Festivals

Get started

- 1** What is a festival? How many kinds of festivals do you know? Are there any festivals in your country or hometown?

Read

- 2** Read the newspaper reviews about three *food festivals*. Which festival is about eating food?

A Peach Festival



Every August the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake becomes a beautiful peachy place. The local farmers are famous for growing the tastiest peaches and the town likes to have a peach party to celebrate. This Canadian food festival is two days long and the main streets turn into a marketplace. Visitors can try the most delicious peach treats during the festival. From peach tea to peach ice cream sundaes and even peach cake, there is a lot of amazing food to try. Just don't forget to buy a basket of some of the area's best peaches to take home.

Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling



Do you want to roll some cheese? You can roll some, but you can't eat it. This festival in Gloucestershire in the UK is not really about eating the local cheese. It's a cheese rolling competition. Thousands of people go to watch the competition and come from all over the world to compete. To play you must roll a heavy wheel of traditional cheese down Cooper's Hill and then try to catch it. Many people think that the competition is dangerous and sometimes people do get hurt. But if you are not good at running fast down a hill, there are competitions where you can run up the hill instead.

Celebrating Tunarama

You must visit this weird and wonderful festival in Port Lincoln, Australia. It is usually held on Australia Day in January, and always promises to be fun! Many people go to the festival to eat the local tuna fish and other seafood. But that isn't what really brings visitors to the festival. Every year people compete in the tuna tossing competition. That's right. Men compete against each other to throw a heavy tuna fish as far as they can and the winner gets a prize. Anyone can have a go but you must have strong arms if you want to throw it far! There is always a prawn tossing competition for teens and kids as well.



Comprehension

- 3 Read the reviews and choose the correct answer for each question.**
- The Peach Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake takes place in
 - January
 - August
 - May
 - The Peach Festival celebrates peaches
 - because the local peaches are the best
 - because they love peaches
 - because they like to have festivals
 - The only festival where people don't go to eat food at all is
 - Tunarama
 - the Peach Festival
 - Cooper's Hill
 - At Tunarama the men enter a competition to throw
 - prawns
 - tuna fish
 - seafood
 - The food festival that takes place in Australia is where they
 - throw fish
 - eat peaches
 - roll cheese
 - Many people who compete in the cheese rolling competition at Cooper's Hill are
 - English
 - from other countries
 - American

Vocabulary

- 4 Read the reviews again and match the words to their definitions.**
- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| compete | } | food that comes from the ocean |
| far | | something that is strange or different |
| local | } | to play to win a game, race or competition |
| roll | | a long distance |
| seafood | } | something from the past that we still do or make |
| toss | | from the area or town |
| traditional | } | to throw something |
| weird | | to push something on the ground so that it turns around |

Speak

- 5 Work in groups of three. Read a different review each and fill in the table below. Take turns to share the information you find with your team mates.**

	Peach Festival	Tunarama	Cooper's Hill
What is the festival about?	<i>Celebrating local peach farming</i>		
Where is the festival?			
What happens at the festival?			
What expressions/ images come to your mind when you think of the food celebrated at the festival?			
How can you describe the festival?			
What do you think of the festival?			
What questions would you like to ask about the festival?			

- 6 Work in pairs. Interview your partner. Your partner plays the role of a representative of one of the festivals. Then switch roles.**

Project

- 7 Design your own newspaper review of a food festival. You can include pictures in your review which must include the following information:**
- What is the name of the festival?
 - What food do they celebrate?
 - Where is it?
 - What happens at the festival?
 - When is it?
 - Why is it a good food festival to visit?
 - How many people attend?