Celebrations

Activity 1 * Survey

Ask your partner the following questions and answer using the expressions below:
(Note that the words in each column can often be used interchangeably)

1. What is your favourite celebration of the year and why?
2. What's the most important annual celebration in your culture?
3. How many national / international celebrations can you think of?
4. What was the most memorable birthday you have ever had?
5. Who are you at parties? The social butterfly, the one who gets stuck with someone, the life and soul of the party, the one hiding in a corner or the dancing queen/king?
6. Are you a *"paint the town red"* or *"have a small get-together"* kind of guy or gal?

Basically	In fact	Definitely	Well
Essentially	Actually	Without a doubt	Anyway
On the whole	In reality	Absolutely	In any case
Mainly	Really	Certainly	So

Examples:

Halloween is *definitely* my favourite celebration!
Actually, I never celebrate my birthday!
Basically, I am a party animal, so I love to paint the town red!
I don't know which birthday was the most memorable, *certainly* not last year, *anyway*!

Activity 2 * Celebratory Expressions

Now you will each devise two questions using the expressions below, which you will then pose to the classmate of your choice. Remember to answer using the vocabulary you learnt in activity one.

- Throw a big party	- Blow up the balloons	- Sing festive songs
- Have a get-together	- Blow out the candles	- Show off your moves
- Crack open the bubbly	- Pull party poppers	- Have a big feast
- Dress up (to the nines)	- Set off the fireworks	- Paint the town red

Activity 3 * 20 Questions

You will each be given an image with its meaning below, which you must not show to your classmates. The rest of the class will ask a maximum of 20 questions (between them) to find out what your image depicts. Only closed questions are allowed. For example: Is it a person? After each image has been revealed, find the common link between them.

Activity 4 * Let's read about Thanksgiving

***Thanksgiving**, presently celebrated on the last Thursday in November, has been an annual tradition in the United States since 1863.*

The First Thanksgiving was celebrated to give thanks to God for helping the pilgrims survive the brutal winter. On the 6th of September 1620, aboard a ship called the Mayflower, 102 passengers set sail across the Atlantic.

The pilgrims sheltered from the snowstorms on the Mayflower. Although half the group died from the bitter cold and from malnutrition, a baby, Peregrine, was born. The pilgrims persevered and finally finished their village in February. The Native Americans met the pilgrims on March 16th. Hoping to live peacefully together, they signed a peace treaty, which lasted for over 50 years.

The first Thanksgiving festival was held in the autumn of 1621 and lasted 3 days providing enough food for 53 pilgrims and 90 Native Americans. Together, they celebrated the harvest and the success of their peace with feasting and dancing.

Today, the traditional Thanksgiving menu features turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie.

Activity 5 * Role Play

With a partner invent a new celebration (include the date, the reason for the celebration, the customs, the food, the dress etc.). Use the expressions in activity one and two to present your ideas to the rest of the class who will in turn ask you questions about it.

Activity 6 * Read, recap and re-enact!

In pairs, you will be given a text relating to a famous celebration. Read it and summarise it using the expressions from activity 1. Then, act out the story behind the celebration and the class will try to guess what it is and where it takes place!

Activity 7 * Song

Listen to this famous song and follow your teacher's instructions.

Activity 8 * Anagrams

Rearrange the letters in the words below to find the eight famous worldwide celebrations.

1. We've seen Ray (3) _____
2. Trims cash (1) _____
3. A toy he fed dad (4) _____
4. Knight saving (1) _____
5. See art (1) _____
6. Lone whale (1) _____
7. Fey king saw thug (3) _____
8. Shy devours tea (2) _____

(Note: If you are really stuck, you can ask your teacher for a small clue!)