**Different Customs and Traditions Around the World**

The world is full of unique customs and traditions that vary from country to country. These practices are often deeply rooted in a nation's history and culture. Let's explore a few interesting customs and traditions from different parts of the world.

In Japan, it is customary to bow when greeting someone. The depth of the bow shows the level of respect. In contrast, people in Western countries usually shake hands or hug. Another interesting Japanese tradition is celebrating Hanami, where people enjoy the beauty of cherry blossoms in spring.

In India, many people celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. During Diwali, families light oil lamps, set off fireworks, and share sweets. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness.

In Mexico, the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) is a colorful and joyful celebration. Families honor their deceased loved ones by setting up altars with their favorite foods, drinks, and photos. They believe that during this time, the spirits return to visit the living.

In Spain, the Running of the Bulls is a famous tradition during the San Fermín festival in Pamplona. People run in front of a group of bulls through the city streets. This event attracts many tourists and thrill-seekers.

Each of these customs and traditions is a window into the cultural richness of a country. They show us how people celebrate, honor their history, and express their values.

**Exercises**

**Exercise 1: Vocabulary Match**

**Match the words to their definitions.**

1. Custom

2. Tradition

3. Bow

4. Festival

5. Victory

6. Altar

7. Thrill-seeker

a. A special event or celebration

b. A habitual practice; something that people regularly do

c. A raised structure for religious rituals

d. A person who enjoys exciting and risky activities

e. To bend the upper body forward to show respect

f. A long-established practice or belief

g. Success in a struggle against difficulties or obstacles

**Exercise 2: True or False**

**Read the statements and write "True" or "False".**

1. In Japan, people usually greet each other by shaking hands.

2. Hanami is a Japanese tradition that celebrates cherry blossoms.

3. Diwali is known as the festival of lights in India.

4. The Day of the Dead is a solemn and sad occasion in Mexico.

5. The Running of the Bulls takes place during the San Fermín festival in Spain.

#**Exercise 3: Discussion Questions**

**Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) to answer each question.**

1. What is a unique custom or tradition from your country?

2. How do you think festivals and traditions help preserve a culture?

3. Would you like to participate in any of the customs mentioned in the text? Why or why not?