Lesson 1: Pick Your Festival!

UNIT: Festivals

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Margaret. A few years ago, I saw this—it's the Lunar New Year Festival that celebrates the start of a new year in some Asian countries.

The one I went to was in Singapore, which is all the way over here in the continent of Asia. I got to see lots of special things that they do at the festival every year—these are called traditions.

Here are some of the traditions I got to experience: I saw the entire city decorated with lanterns, I watched dance performances, like this one with a lion, and I saw fireworks. It was so much fun! This made me want to learn more about festivals.

I found out that festivals happen all over the world. Some have traditions with special meanings that have been celebrated for a very long time. Some are fun gatherings, sort of like a big party with lots of people. Each festival celebrates something different and has its own set of traditions. Check out some of the unique traditions at these festivals:

- This one is called Feria de Cali in Colombia. Listen to the drums. It can make everyone want to dance.

- This festival is called Pizza Fest, and it happens in Italy. Look at how they sprinkle the toppings on this extra-long pizza.

- And this one is the Holi Festival in India. So many beautiful colors and you get to throw them!

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What do you notice about the celebrations and traditions at these festivals?

HOOK 2

There are lots of things to notice about these festivals, like how some have music and dancing, some have delicious food, and lots of fun activities. As I was learning more about festivals, I came across Tariq's channel. He's a traveling filmmaker, and he attends festivals all over the world. Then he posts pictures and makes a video about the festival he attended.

Since Tariq attends so many festivals, it's hard for him to decide which video to make every week. So, he wants to hear how his viewers feel—that means he wants to hear our opinion. An opinion is what someone thinks or feels about something.

Each week, Tariq puts up a vote on his page. For your vote to count, each viewer needs to write about what festival video they want to see and two reasons why. The festival with the most votes will be the video that gets posted at the end of the week.

Last week, Tariq wanted his viewers to help him decide between these two festivals: the Monkey Buffet Festival in Thailand, or Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland. Before I voted, I had lots of questions about these festivals and especially about these two pictures.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: What questions would you have about these festivals based on these pictures?

HOOK 3

I'm not sure how you answered, but here were some of the questions that I had. Like, what is this monkey doing? And is this person using a hula hoop? And what are they celebrating?

Before I decided on my opinion of these festivals and which one to vote for, I wanted to find some more information. Luckily, Tariq posts lots of pictures and facts about each festival so that his viewers can learn more before voting.

Here is some information that Tariq posted about the first option—it's called the Monkey Buffet Festival. It takes place in Thailand:

- It's a way for people to celebrate monkeys in Thailand.
- People put out fruits, nuts, and other snacks that monkeys enjoy.
- Decorations and the snacks are set out on a big table like a giant feast.
- People come watch and take pictures as the monkeys happily eat their special treats.

Now, let's look at what Tariq posted about the second option—it's called Edinburgh Festival Fringe. It takes place in Scotland:

- People from all over the world come to perform and watch all different types of shows.
- There are performers in colorful costumes, acrobats, and even opera singers.
- People who attend get to see amazing shows, street performers, and artwork.
- There are lots of stalls and food trucks that offer different foods like fish and chips, pizza, and noodles.

DISCUSSION 3

Discuss: Now that you have more information from Tariq's page, which festival video would you want to see and why?

HOOK 4

I'm sure the information on Tariq's page helped you the same way it helped me form an opinion. Both festivals were really interesting to learn about, but I was especially excited about the street performers and acrobats. So, I decided I wanted to see the Edinburgh Festival Fringe video. You may have had a different opinion, and that's awesome.

Here's how I would tell Tariq my opinion.

> I vote to see the video about Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

By learning about both festivals, I was able to form an opinion and think about what I would write to Tariq.

Oh, look. Tariq's page is going live and is about to post the two new festivals for next week. Let's listen in.

> *Hey, friends. It's that time again. I need your help deciding which festival video to upload. Your options are:*
>
> *Option 1 - La Tomatina in Spain. It's the world's largest food fight.*
>
> *Or option 2 - The Harbin Ice Festival in China. It's the largest ice and snow festival in the world.*
>
> *Click on the contact link and write to me about which video you would like to see, and two reasons why. The festival with the most votes will get posted. I can't wait to read what you all have to say!*

You might already have an opinion of what video you want to see, and that's okay. But before you make a final decision and write about it, we can learn more about each festival.

In today's lesson, you're going to learn about the history and traditions of both of these festivals. Then you'll form an opinion so you can write to Tariq about the video you want to see.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone knows who their talk partner is, move on to the next step.

STEP 3

We're going to look at some videos and pictures posted on Tariq's page about La Tomatina. You will discuss what you saw and then write a short note about it so that you can remember what you learned.

Get your Option 1 & 2 Notes worksheet. This is where you can take notes on what you learn about each festival. On this side, you'll take notes on La Tomatina. And on this side, you'll take notes on the Harbin Ice Festival.

Here's Tariq's first post about La Tomatina:

La Tomatina takes place in Spain, which is located in Europe.

This could be important information to remember, so let's write it in our notes. Instead of writing this whole sentence, I can just write the important parts.

Find where it says "Where" under "La Tomatina," and write "Spain."

STEP 4

Here's a post on the history of La Tomatina:

> *No one really knows the exact beginning of this festival. One story says that it started as a food fight that turned into a tomato battle between friends. Another story says a tomato truck spilled, and people started throwing the tomatoes in the street. There are lots of stories about how it may have started.*

Discuss with a partner: What did you notice about the history of La Tomatina?

STEP 5

When you're taking notes, you don't need to write and complete sentences. Just use a few words that help you remember what's important.

Find where it says "History" on your notes. In a few words, write one note about the history of La Tomatina. You can use your Word Bank or one of these examples to help you:

- No one knows how it started
- Some think food fight with friends
- Some think tomato truck spilled

STEP 6

Here's a post on the food at La Tomatina:

> *One of the main dishes prepared at La Tomatina is paella. It's a dish made with meat, rice, and vegetables—all cooked in a large pan. There's even a paella cooking contest at the beginning of the festival. Another dish that gets served at the festival is called patatas bravas, which means spicy potatoes.*

Discuss with a partner: What did you notice about the food at La Tomatina?

STEP 7

Find where it says "Food" on your notes. In a few words, write one note about the food at La Tomatina. You can use your Word Bank or one of these examples to help you.

- They eat Paella - has meat, rice, vegetables
- Paella cooking contest
- They eat Patatas Bravas (spicy potatoes)

STEP 8

Here's a post on what it looks like to attend La Tomatina:

> *Everyone tries to wear white. They also wear old clothes or costumes that they don't mind getting messy. After the tomato throwing, the entire town looks like it's been painted red.*

Discuss with a partner: What did you notice about what it looks like at La Tomatina? Try to think of more than one thing.

STEP 9

Find where it says, "What it looks like" on your notes.

This time write two notes about what it looks like at La Tomatina. Just write a few words for each note so that it helps you remember what you saw. You can use your Word Bank to help you.

STEP 10

Here's Tariq's last post on activities at La Tomatina:

> *Tomato throwing isn't the only activity at La Tomatina. There are lots of contests like a tomato eating contest, a messiest participant contest and many more. There's also a parade where people dress up, march through the streets, and throw more tomatoes. At the end of the festival, everyone comes together to clean up the town.*

Discuss with a partner: What did you notice about activities that happen at La Tomatina? Try to think of more than one activity.

STEP 11

Find where it says, "Activities" on your notes.

This time write two notes about activities at La Tomatina. Just write a few words for each note so that it helps you remember what you saw. You can use your Word Bank to help you.

STEP 12

Great job taking notes on La Tomatina! Now we're going to look at some videos and pictures posted on Tariq's page about the Harbin Ice Festival. You'll think about what

you saw and then write a short note about it so that you can remember what you learned. If you get stuck, there'll be some ideas on screen and your Word Bank is always there for you to use.

Here's Tariq's first post about the Harbin Ice Festival:

> *It takes place in China, which is located here in Asia.*

Find where it says "Where" under the Harbin Ice Festival and write "China."

STEP 13

Here's Tariq's post on the history of the Harbin Ice Festival:

> *Over a thousand years ago in the city of Harbin, China, the winters were freezing and people needed a way to stay warm and have some fun. So they decided to make small ice lanterns to light up the dark winter nights. These lanterns were so beautiful that more people decided to join in on the fun.*

Think about what you want to remember about the history of the Harbin Ice Festival. When you have your idea, fill in the "History" section in your Notes.

You can use your Word Bank or one of these examples to help you:

- People made ice lanterns to stay warm.
- People had fun making ice lanterns.
- Lots of people joined in making ice lanterns.

STEP 14

Here's a post on the food at the Harbin Ice Festival:

One treat at this festival is called candied Hawes. These fruits are on sticks and dipped in a sugary syrup. The syrup then hardens making a sweet and crunchy snack. There are other fruits that are frozen like pears and pineapples. And there's also hot food like grilled meat on a stick and dumplings which are crescent shaped snacks filled with meat or vegetables.

Think about what you want to remember about the food at the Harbin Ice Festival. When you have your idea, fill in the "Food" section on your Notes. You can use your Word Bank or one of these examples to help you:

- Candied haws, fruits on a stick dipped in syrup.
- Frozen pears, pineapples, other fruits.
- Dumplings and grilled meat on stick.

STEP 15

Here's a post on what it looks like to attend the Harbin Ice Festival:

There are sculptures built everywhere. Some are made of snow, and some are made of ice. At night, these sculptures light up. Since it can get really cold, people bundle up with big warm coats and other cold weather gear like hats, gloves, and winter boots.

Think about two things you want to remember about what it looks like at the Harbin Ice Festival.

When you have your ideas, fill in the "What it looks like" section on your Notes. You can use your Word Bank to help you.

STEP 16

Here's Tariq's last post on activities at the Harbin Ice Festival:

> *People can go ice skating, sledding and even snow karting. There are ice mazes and ice slides for everyone to enjoy. There are also ice-skating performances.*

Think about two things you want to remember about activities at the Harbin Ice Festival. When you have your ideas, fill in the "Activities" section on your Notes. You can use your Word Bank to help you.

STEP 17

Now it's time to use your notes to form your opinion. Silently read over your notes and decide which festival you want to rate to post.

When you have your opinion, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 18

Find the box labeled, "Opinion Sentence." This is the sentence that will state your opinion. In the blank, write "La Tomatina" or "The Harbin Ice Festival," to complete the sentence with your opinion.

STEP 19

Take turns sharing your opinion sentence with your partner.

STEP 20

The papers shown on the screen are V.I.P.s—very important papers. Your teacher will tell you where to put them, so you'll have them for the next lesson

WRAP UP

Wow! Awesome job taking notes on both these festivals. You took such great notes, formed an opinion, and used it to create an opinion sentence—you'll include this when you write to Tariq.

An opinion sentence is important to any piece of opinion writing because it's the sentence that states your opinion.

In the next lesson, you'll plan out what your first reason for your opinion will be and get ready to start writing in to Tariq's channel.

I'll see you next time.