



Food for Special Occasions

Role and Significance of Food

- ◆ Food has an important social role.
- ◆ People have always liked to meet together to relax, talk and share common experiences and beliefs.
- ◆ They like to share food at the same time because it makes the occasion even more enjoyable.
- ◆ It shows great hospitality and friendship when one person shares food with another.



Reasons for Celebration

- ◆ There are many reasons why people celebrate special occasions.
- ◆ What celebrations does your family participate in?
- ◆ Why do you celebrate them?



1. Social Reasons

- ◆ Social celebrations are those that commonly involve friends and relatives.
- ◆ Social celebrations can be either formal (planned) or informal/casual (organised).
- ◆ For example; Social Dinner for Year 10, Barbecues, Picnics, Buffets.



Foods Eaten

- ◆ Certain social events are linked with particular foods that are commonly served and eaten.
- ◆ **Barbecue or Picnic:** Steak, Sausages, Chicken, Bread Rolls, Salads, Cheeses, Fruits.
- ◆ **Cocktail Party:** Canapes, Crackers, Cheese & Fruit, Wine, Cocktails, Champagne.
- ◆ **Formal Dinner:** Soup, Terrine, Seafood Cocktails, Roast Meat & Vegetables, Cheesecake, Alcohol and Coffee.
- ◆ **Morning or Afternoon Tea:** Tea, Coffee, Scones, Muffins, Cakes, Tarts.
- ◆ **Buffet:** Cold Meats, Salads, Pasta, Potato Bakes, Soft Serve Ice-Creams & Toppings.



2. Cultural Reasons

- ◆ Culture is understood as the values, knowledge, beliefs, behaviours, dress and foods that are passed on through each generation of a particular society.
- ◆ There are many different types of cultural celebrations in multicultural Australia, most of which involve the preparation of special foods.



Foods Eaten

- ◆ Australia Day marks the landing of Captain Arthur Phillip at Botany Bay and the beginning of European Settlement. Foods eaten include; Green Jellies, Red Cordial, Lamingtons, Meat Pies, Vegemite Sandwiches and Pavlova.
- ◆ Chinese New Year is celebrated by the Chinese community in January and February when the moon is in a certain position. Foods eaten include; Pork Dumplings, Pork Crackling, Roast Suckling Pig, Sweets, Lychees and Chinese Tea.



3. Religious Reasons

- ◆ People may eat special foods on certain religious days because it reminds them of their God or Gods or their belief.
- ◆ People may go without food because it allows them to think more about their God or Gods and others that may be suffering or have suffered in the past.



Foods Eaten

❖ *Christianity - Christmas:* Roast Turkey, Gravy & Vegetables, Shortbread, Mince Pies, Plum Pudding & Custard, Seafood, Salad.

❖ *Judaism - The Sabbath:* Jewish people believe that when God create the universe, he left one day for rest. The Sabbath period begins sunset Friday and ends sunset Saturday. Foods eaten include; Wine that has been blessed, Sweet bread called 'Challah'.



4. Historical Reasons

- ◆ Events in history can influence when and how a special occasion is celebrated.
- ◆ Anzac Day: Women baked biscuits to raise funds for the war effort and today people still bake Anzac biscuits.
- ◆ Valentine's Day: People send anonymous cards, sweets, flowers and chocolates for their loved ones. This replicates the priest who fell in love with the jailer's daughter and left her a love letter before he was killed that he signed "Your Valentine".



5. Family Reasons

- ◆ Families all over the world choose to celebrate occasions that are important to them.
- ◆ Birthdays: Chips, Sweets, Fairy Bread, Chocolate Crackles, Sausage Rolls, Soft Drinks.
- ◆ Weddings: Wedding Cake, Champagne, Sugar Coated Almonds.
- ◆ Family Reunions: A buffet style of food service.

