

Bihu

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Read about the festival of Bihu.

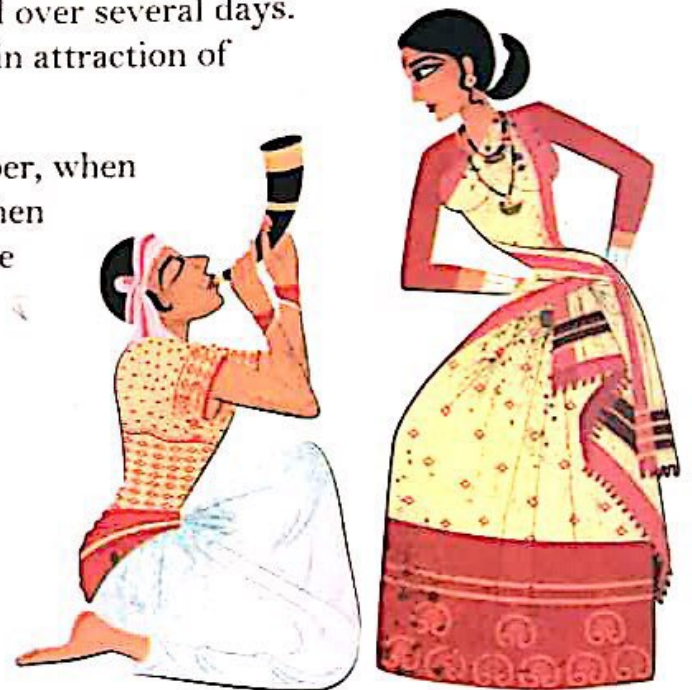
Bihu is the most popular festival in Assam and is celebrated to honour the significance of agriculture. The people celebrate three types of Bihu every year—Bohaag Bihu, Kati Bihu and Magh Bihu.

Bohaag Bihu is celebrated in the month of Bohaag (middle of April) and marks the beginning of the seeding time. It is celebrated over several days. Traditional folk songs and dances are the main attraction of this festival.

Kati Bihu is celebrated in the middle of October, when people perform silent prayer by lighting earthen lamps in fields. It is the time when farmers are hoping for a good produce.

The Magh Bihu indicates the end of the harvesting period. It is celebrated in the middle of January. It is a festival of feasting. Women prepare traditional sweets which are shared with friends, neighbours and relatives. People enjoy singing and dancing throughout the night and light bonfires.

Bihu festival is celebrated by everyone in Assam, irrespective of caste or creed. The festival promotes a spirit of love and brotherhood among the people.



A. Choose the correct answer.

1. How many types of Bihu are there ?

- a. two b. three c. one d. four

2. Kati Bihu is celebrated in the middle of which month?

- a. April b. March c. October d. January

3. What are the main attractions of Bahaag Bihu?

- a. food
- b. folk songs and dance
- c. clothes
- d. lamps

B. Match the words with their meaning.

1. popular (d)	a. belief or stories relating to the past
2. significance (e)	b. to contribute to the growth of
3. traditional (a)	c. the feeling of closeness to all people
4. promote (b)	d. liked or admired by many people
5. brotherhood (c)	e. the quality of being important

C. Answer these questions.

1. What do the people of Assam do during Kati Bihu?

During Kati Bihu the people of Assam perform silent prayer by lighting earthen lamps in fields.

2. What does the festival of Bihu promote?

The festival of Bihu promotes a spirit of love and brotherhood among the people.

3. What does Magh Bihu indicate?

The Magh Bihu indicates the end of the harvesting period. It is a period festival of feasting.

C. Read this passage.

Dolphins

Dolphins are very intelligent animals. They seem to love humans as much as we love them. Dolphins are curious just like humans, and they form strong bonds with the members of their group. There are 43 different types of dolphins that are known to us. Out of these, 38 types are found in seas and oceans, and five types are found in rivers. Dolphins are very interesting animals. They can often be seen leaping out of water. Some of them can leap very high. They have to come to the surface of water to breathe. Dolphins have 100 teeth. But they do not use their teeth to eat. They use their teeth to catch fish, and then they swallow it.

1. Give the meanings of these words as used in the passage.

- intelligent: clever
- curious: eager to learn
- interesting: keeps your attention

2. Answer these questions.

a. How are dolphins like humans?

dike humans, dolphins are curious and they form strong bonds with the members of their group.

b. How many types of dolphins do we know about? Where are they found?

We know about 43 different types of dolphins. They are found in seas, oceans and rivers.

c. What do dolphins do to breathe?

Dolphins come to the surface of water to breathe.

d. How do dolphins use their teeth?

Dolphins use their teeth to catch fish.



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