

KNOW YOUR FESTIVAL:

Hari Raya Puasa

The festival of *Eid*, known as *Hari Raya Puasa* or *Hari Raya Aidilfitri* in Singapore, is a festival celebrated by Muslims. It is celebrated after a month of fasting during the holy Ramadan. It is a time of forgiveness and family gatherings in which beautiful clothes are worn and delicious feasts are shared. Here are some interesting things to learn about the festival!

Hari Raya Puasa

On the morning of Hari Raya Puasa, Muslims would visit the mosque and recite special prayers. This will be followed by asking for forgiveness from the elders. They will also visit relatives and friends.



Traditional Attire

The *baju kurung* and *baju melayu* are the traditional attires of the Malay community in Singapore. They are loose-fitting outfits.

For women, the *baju kurung* is long-sleeved which includes a sarong that reaches the ankles.

For men, the *baju melayu* is also long-sleeved, which includes a pair of loose trousers and a headgear, also known as a *songkok*. A short sarong, also known as *kain samping*, is traditionally worn over the trousers.

Preparation for Hari Raya Puasa

It starts about two weeks before the festival.

Homes will be cleaned and decorated.

Festive goodies are prepared.



Did You Know?

Ramadan

Ramadan is the month of fasting. For 30 days, Muslims will abstain from eating and drinking from dawn to sunset, along with performing prayers during the night. When food is consumed after sunset during Ramadan, this is known as breaking fast, or *iftar*.

Customs practised during Hari Raya Puasa

- Children will seek blessings and forgiveness from the elders.
- Elders, especially the head of the family, will stay at home and wait for their relatives to come and visit them.
- Families will have a feast together.



Delicious Food

During Hari Raya Puasa, Muslim families will usually prepare a delicious spread of traditional dishes.

- Rendang:** A spicy dish of meat
- Ketupat:** Rice cake wrapped in coconut leaf
- Lontong:** Rice cake in coconut gravy
- Sambal Goreng:** A stir-fried dish of beancurd, fermented soybean (tempeh) and long beans
- Serunding:** A dish of shredded coconut with spices

Activity Time

Look for images of these traditional dishes to find out how they look like and where they are sold.

References:

Bentley, J. (2016). Happy Eid al Fitri: The sweet festival. London, Wayland. (Call no.: JP 297.36 BEN)
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