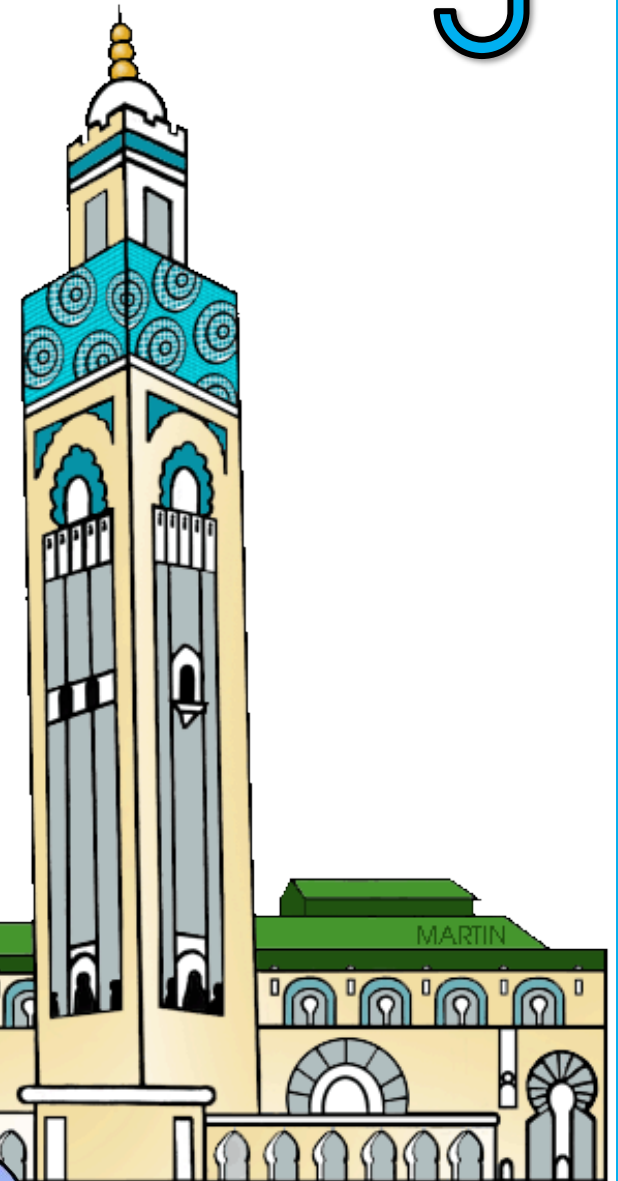


Ramadan

21 July

(If the new moon has been seen)

This is the beginning of the month of Ramadan - an Islamic religious festival. Ramadan is a time of fasting, with special prayers and reading from the Quran.



Eid-ul-Fitr

19 August

(If the new moon has been seen).

Eid-ul-Fitr is an Islamic religious festival. This is a joyous but serious celebration of the end of a month-long fast of Ramadan. It is a day of praise, caring for the poor and visiting friends and family.



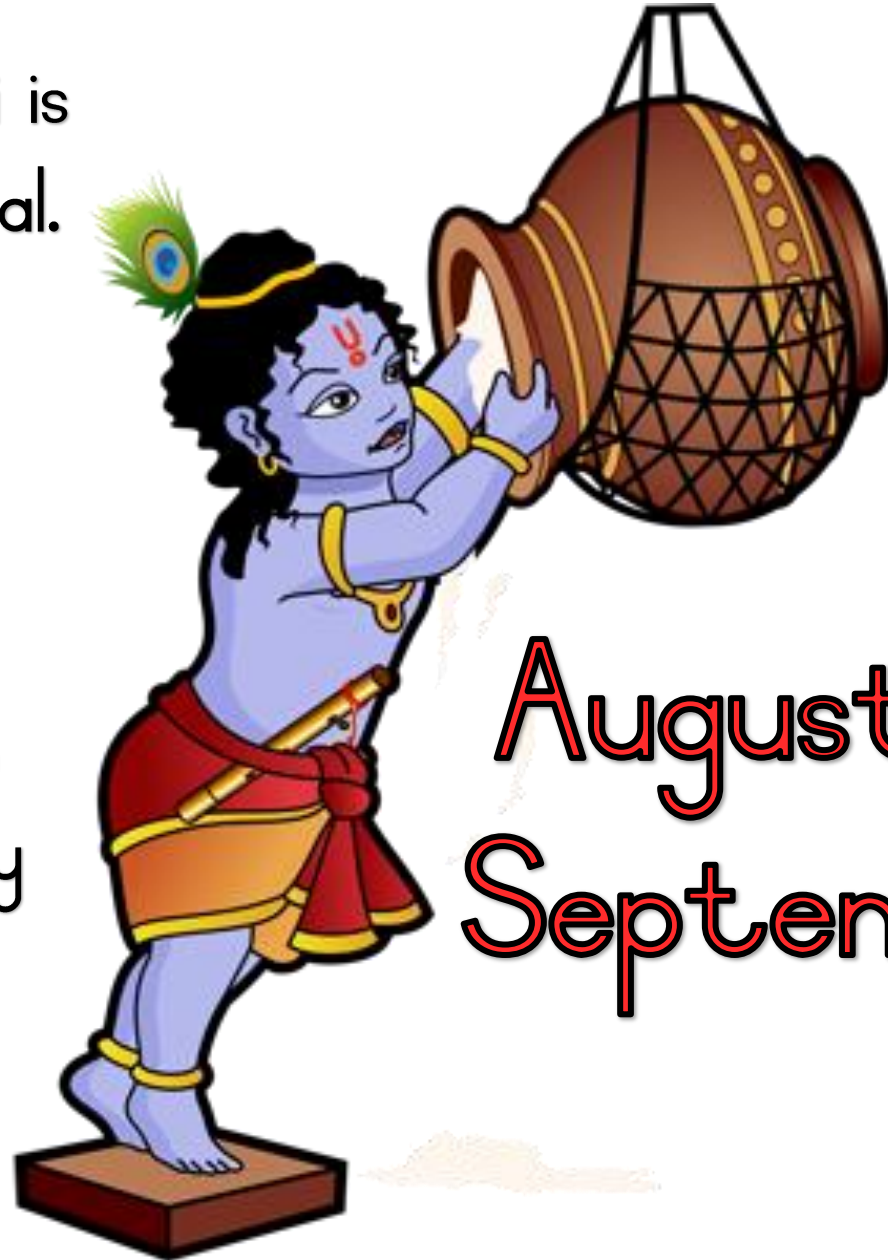
Raksha Bandhan July or August

Raksha Bandhan is a Hindu festival. Hindus celebrate the relationship between brothers and sisters. A sister ties a rakhi (a sacred thread) around her brother's wrist. This symbolizes her love and prayers for him as well as his lifelong promise to protect her.



Krishna Janmashtami

Krishna Janmashtami is a Hindu religious festival. The birth of Krishna Janmashtami is celebrated by fasting. Krishna is a central figure of Hinduism. On this day children usually act scenes from Krishna's life.



August or
September

Pitr Paksha

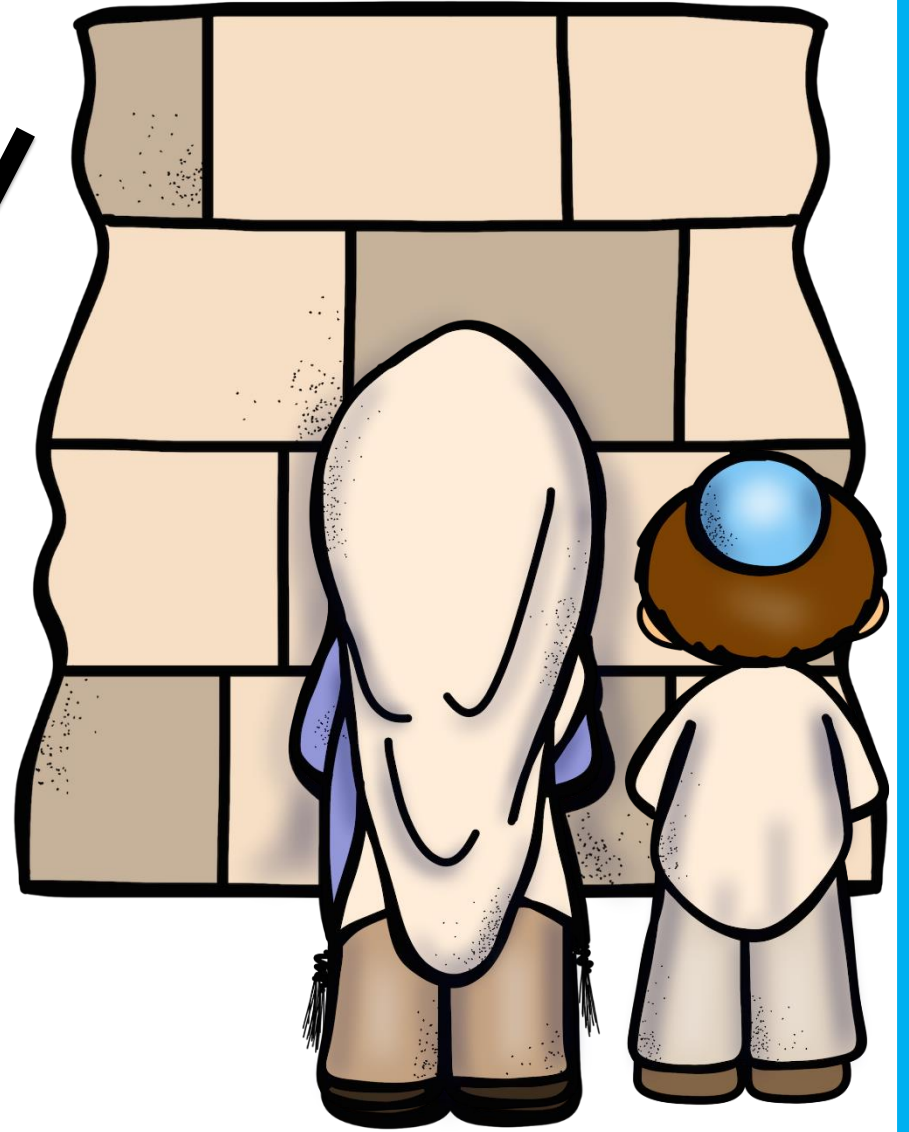
Pitr Paksha is another Hindu-religious festival. Hindus give respect to their ancestors ("pitrs") especially through food-offerings.

September



Tisha B'av

Tisha B'av is a Jewish religious day. Jews fast to mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem and remember other Jewish tragedies that happened on this day. The day is called "the saddest day in Jewish history."



July or August

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. People blow the shofar (a ram's horn) to celebrate the day. They eat foods like apples dipped in honey, to show that they are hoping for a sweet life in the new year.

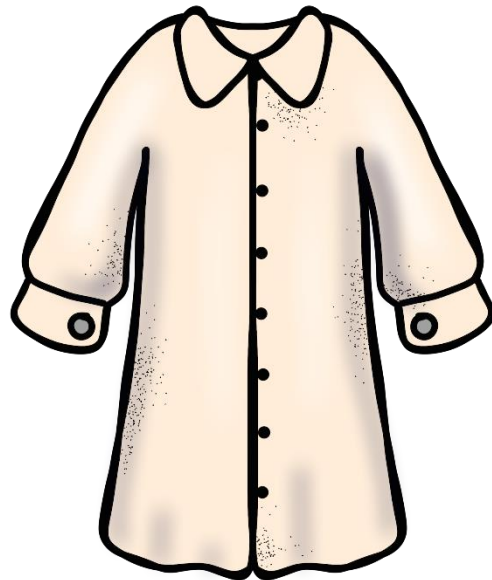
רוש השנה



September

Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur comes 10 days after Rosh Hashanah. It is the most holy Jewish religious day. On this day everybody wears white clothes.



September
or October

You should not take a bath or shower.



You should not eat or drink.



You should not wear leather shoes.



Women`s Day

National Women`s Day is a public holiday. On 9 August 1956 20 000 women protested at the Union Building in Pretoria against the fact that Africans had to carry "passbooks". The role of women in the South African society is celebrated on this day.

9 August



International Literacy day

The day highlights the importance of learning to read and write.

8 September



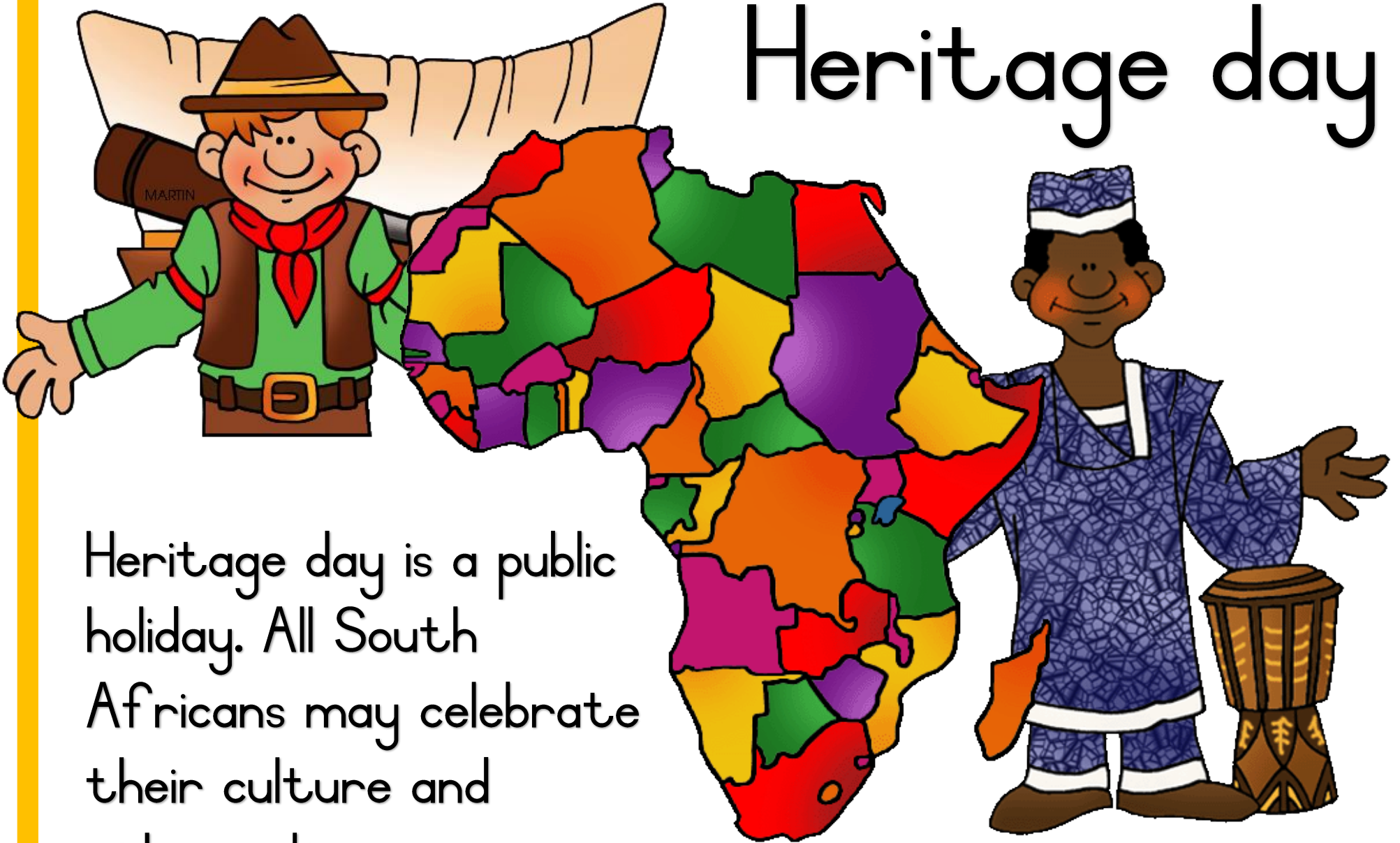
National Arbor week

People are encouraged to plant trees.

1-7 September



Heritage day



Heritage day is a public holiday. All South Africans may celebrate their culture and other cultures.

24 September