

The Battle of Mactan

(Kadaugan sa Mactan)

: a celebration of the victory of Lapu-lapu (Hero of Cebu) against Ferdinand Magellan (Portuguese explorer), "Kadaugan" means victory



In Philippine history, the Battle of Mactan is one of the most significant events that happened. It showed how the Filipinos were fearless in fighting against the foreigners who conquered the country. Filipinos helped one another in defending their country from the invaders and Lapu-lapu was the one who killed Magellan.

Because of that, Lapu-lapu is considered as the first Filipino hero in the Philippines. The Battle of Mactan is reenacted every April 27.

VOCABULARY

fearless
conquered
defending
invaders
reenacted

QUESTIONS

1. Who is your country's biggest national hero? What are his contributions to the country?
2. Are there conflicts between your country and another country?
3. Is it important to have heroes?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

fearless conquered defending invaders reenacted

1. The country was _____ by the Spaniards.
2. She is _____ her right as a customer.
3. Maria is _____ and willing to take risk.
4. The famous Hollywood actress _____ the crime on the stage.
5. The people protect its country from _____.

Fiesta in Carcar

: a celebration in Carcar in honor of its patron, St. Catherine of Alexandria



Carcar is a city in the province of Cebu, Philippines. It is famous for the Spanish architecture of its houses and churches, locally- made shoes and local delicacies.

The Kabkaban Festival in Carcar is one of the most popular festivals in Cebu. The festival was traditionally meant to sweep away bad luck and bad spirits. The word kabkaban is derived from the name of specie of grass called kabkad that grows abundantly in the place. The tradition was inspired by Val San Diego and is a celebration that showcases the town's history, product and arts.

VOCABULARY:

sweep away
derive
abundantly
tradition
showcase

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of traditional festival do you usually celebrate in your country?
2. Do you wear special clothing in festival or special celebrations?
3. What's your favorite festival?

EXERCISE:

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

swept away derived abundantly tradition showcases

1. Flowers bloom _____ in some rural areas.
2. Floods _____ several houses.
3. The program _____ up-and-coming musicians.
4. Many English words are _____ from French.
5. It is a western _____ for brides to wear white.

Christmas - Paskuhan

: from the Filipino word pasko or Christmas, is a province-wide festival of songs and lantern-making that spreads the holiday cheer to locals and tourists alike



Paskuhan is a Christmas celebration of songs and lantern making held during the month of December to spread good cheers to local residents and visitors alike. It's the most favorite season of the year for most Filipinos. People are busy putting up their Christmas trees and decorating their houses with ornaments, colorful lights and lanterns.

Filipinos enjoy singing Christmas carols especially children. Family reunions and family gatherings are very common

during Christmas. A variety of foods are prepared such as lechon (roasted pig), ham, cheese, desserts, etc. At present, Christmas is a time for family and friends to get together and exchange gifts.

VOCABULARY

decorating
ornaments
Christmas carols
lantern
variety

QUESTIONS

1. How do you celebrate Christmas in your country?
2. What was your best Christmas experience?
3. If you were to give a gift on Christmas to someone, what would it be? Why?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

decorating ornaments Christmas carols lantern variety

1. Children sing _____ at Christmas time.
2. The company sells a _____ of gardening products.
3. Lanterns, Christmas tree and colorful lights are included for _____ the houses every Christmas.
4. The single-story bungalow was lit by a battery-powered camping _____.
5. Their house was filled with colorful _____.

Holy Week observance in Bantayan

(Semana Santa sa Bantayan)

: a traditional religious festivity held every year during holy week where a huge crowd of devotees paraded along the streets to witness the passion and death of Jesus Christ



Besides the passion and death of Christ, images of saints are also shown and paraded along the streets on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. In the Philippines, some practices are observed during Lent such as fasting and abstinence from meat products.

During Holy Week, Bantayan is popular for its peculiar tradition where the Stations of the Cross are portrayed in life size figures put on *carozzas* (carriages) called the “*Santo Entierro*” (Holy Burial) procession. Every year, images are displayed during the Good Friday procession. There are different ways of celebrating Holy

Week in the Philippines and the people in Bantayan have their own unique Holy Week practices.

VOCABULARY

fasting
abstinence
peculiar
portrayed
procession

QUESTIONS

1. How do you feel about attending celebrations that involves huge crowds?
2. Do you have religious celebrations in your country? How do you celebrate it?
3. What celebration in your country would be most interesting for a foreign guest? Why?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

fasting abstinence peculiar portrayed procession

1. Our new neighbor has a _____ personality.
2. _____ is an obligation for Muslims during Ramadan.
3. There was heavy traffic because of the _____.
4. The doctor advised him to have a total _____ of alcoholic beverages.
5. She _____ the character of an old woman.

Sinulog Festival

: derived from the root word sulog, meaning "river current"; the dancing of the festival is thought to flow like a river



The Sinulog Festival is held every year on the third Sunday of the year to pay tribute to the Santo Niño, which most people consider as the patron saint of Cebu. During the Festival you will see the most colorful displays and street dancing. The streets are full of people eager to witness the beauty of the festival and to pay homage to the Santo Niño.

The festival is characterized by a different dance. The dance is accompanied by the sound of the drums: all the time moving two steps forward followed by one step backward. While dancing, people are shouting petitions and thanksgivings to the Santo Niño. Shouting is necessary because the pilgrims have to be sure that they will be heard by the Santo Niño.

VOCABULARY

pay tribute to
patron saint
homage
petition
pilgrim

QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the most popular festivals or celebrations in your country?
2. Are they religious holidays?
3. How do you celebrate it?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

pay tribute to patron saint homage petition pilgrims

1. People bowed in _____ to the king as he passed by.
2. Thousands of Muslim _____ traveled to Mecca.
3. We ask you to hear our _____.
4. We will have a reception to _____ the work of the committee.
5. St. Christopher is the _____ of travelers.