

The Festival of



Deep Winter

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When the nights grow long, and the air grows cold, we all look to the Festival of Deep Winter. A moment when we come together with those whom we love. Dear ones who have left return, and we are together again. Even when the winter bears down on us, we have Friends and Family to help us stay warm.

The Festival of Deep Winter is a storytelling game about traditions and comfort. This game plays 2 to 6 people, and plays in an hour or two.

Materials

- Pen and paper
- A stack of index cards
- Comforting food and drink

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Creating the Festival

The Festival of Deep Winter brings people together for warmth and connection. Tell us about the Festival. Take turns answering these questions and exploring other thoughts that grow from them. Write the answers on an index card for each element.

Food and Drink

What do we eat and drink at the Festival? Why? What role does food and drink play in the celebration?

Example: Sharing a meal as togetherness -- Food inspired by fables

Ritual

What rituals are performed at the Festival? Are these rituals formal or informal? Are these done in private or in public? Is it secular or sacred?

Example: Opening gifts -- Attending a religious ceremony

Gathering

Who comes together? Do people meet in large or small groups? Where do people meet?

Example: Holiday concerts -- Visiting friends or family at someone's home

The Town

How does the town change for the Festival? What do you see and hear? Who is in charge of the transformation?

Examples: Ice sculptures in the market -- hearing holiday music in shopping centres

Preparation

How do we prepare for the Festival? How long does it usually take? How stressful is it?

Examples: Decorating the house -- Cleaning the house

Aesthetics

What are the symbols of the Festival? What are the Festival colours? Flavours? Scents?

Red and green -- Candles

Exploring The Festival

Is this your first time celebrating this Festival, or is this an old and familiar tradition? On your turn, tell us where you are going and what you hope to experience. The rest of us will take turns describing one element of your experience. We will consider all of your senses. We will think about what you may be thinking or feeling. We will think about things happening around you. We will tell you only as much as we feel is necessary. We will stop when it is the right time to do so.



After the Festival

Did you enjoy your time at the Festival of Deep Winter? What was the most memorable part? What do you hope to experience next time? Next year, when winter bears down on us, we know we have dear Friends and Family to keep us warm.

