

FESTA JUNINA



Festa Junina (São João or Saint John’s Festival) – which is the Catholic replacement for a **pagan** midsummer festival – is a sacred festival celebrated nationwide. The tradition was brought to Brazil by Portuguese **colonists**. As Brazil is in the southern hemisphere, it became a midwinter festival here and it’s celebrated in June. It starts one week before St. John’s Day and

it ends one week after. People celebrate it with traditional foods, games and dances. It’s mainly celebrated on the days following the Catholic feast of Saint Anthony, Saint John and Saint Peter.

While celebrated all over Brazil, São João is especially popular in the rural northeast. Here, it marks the beginning of the rainy season. And, as São João coincides with the corn **harvest**, corn-based foods are a popular **facet** of the celebration. These include **canjica** and **pamonha**. **Fireworks** and **bonfires** are key components of the festivities.

Adapted from: www.eslteachersboard.com/cgi-bin/latin-america/index.pl?read=1167.

Read the text and match the words in bold to their definitions.

a. pagan	() A class of explosive pyrotechnic devices used for aesthetic and entertainment purposes. They produce four primary effects: noise, light, smoke, and floating materials. They may be designed to burn with colored flames and sparks including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and silver.
b. colonists	() One of numerous aspects, as of a subject.
c. harvest	() A traditional Brazilian food. It is a paste made from corn and milk, boiled wrapped in corn husks. Variations may include coconut milk. They can be filled with cheese, sausage, peppers or be natural.
d. facet	() A person without any religion; heathen.
e. canjica	() The act or process of gathering a crop.
f. pamonha	() A controlled outdoor fire used for informal disposal of burnable waste material or as part of a celebration. They are typically designed to burn quickly and may be very large.
g. fireworks	() Original settlers or founders of a colony.
h. bonfires	() A white variety of corn, very typical of Brazilian cuisine. Mostly used in a special kind of sweet popcorn, it is a Festa Junina popular dish.

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