

Recommended age: 8 years and up

Activity 3:

Let's read about **falles**, **haros**, **halhes** and **brandons**!

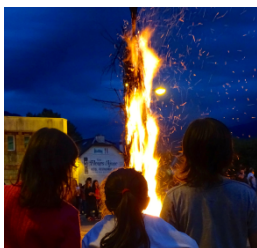
Ready to discover the festival and some of its key terms?
Come on, immerse yourself in this short text!

The solstice fire festivals in the Pyrenees began many years ago, when the people who inhabited these regions asked the Sun Star for its light and protection. They are celebrated during the winter and summer solstice, the shortest and longest days of the year.

A few weeks before the festival starts, the *fallaires* (*falla* bearers) prepare the logs or grasses they will burn during the celebration; they are the **falles**, also known around the area as *haros*, *halhes* or *brandons*!



Different materials are used to prepare the *falles*. In many places, they are first splintered (to splinter = **asclar**) and then perforated with wedges (wedge = **tascó**) to make them burn better. In Aragon and Catalonia, when the bonfire of the **faro** (beacon) is already quite large, the *fallaires* light the *falles* and begin their descent to the town, drawing a snake of fire on the mountain as they go.



When the *fallaires* reach the town, they continue through the streets with the *falles* alight on their shoulders. The rest of the town cheers them on, dances and waits for them in the town square where, frequently, a bonfire or **falla major** is burned.

Question 1: Find a short description for the bold words in the text and, then, make a drawing to depict them in the chart on the following page:

Look for everything you need to know about the world of *falles* at the [Virtual Museum!](#)

<i>Word</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Drawing</i>
Falles		
Asclar		
Tascó		
Faro		
Falla major		

Question 2: What is the name for the highest place where a bonfire is lit?
 What is this place called in El Berguedà?

Question 3: What are solstices? Do you know when the summer solstice is celebrated? And the winter solstice?
