

# 8 Let's celebrate!

## 1 SNAPSHOT

### Holidays and Festivals

 <p><b>Chinese New Year</b> <i>January or February</i> Chinese people celebrate with firecrackers and lion dances.</p>	 <p><b>Valentine's Day</b> <i>February 14</i> People in many countries give chocolates, flowers, or jewelry to the people they love.</p>	 <p><b>Children's Day</b> <i>May 5</i> Japanese families put up colored streamers shaped like fish, in honor of their children.</p>	 <p><b>Day of the Dead</b> <i>November 2</i> Mexican families offer food to the dead and then have a meal in a cemetery.</p>
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Source: *Reader's Digest Book of Facts*

Which of these holidays celebrate people? Which celebrate events?  
Do you celebrate these or similar holidays in your country?  
What other special days do you have? What's your favorite holiday or festival?

## 2 WORD POWER


**Pair work** Complete the word map. Add one more word to each category. Then describe a recent celebration using some of the words.

anniversary  
cake  
cards  
dancing  
fireworks  
flowers  
fruit punch  
parade  
party  
presents  
roast turkey  
wedding



A: I went to a friend's birthday party recently. There was live music and dancing.  
B: What kind of music did they play?

### 3 PERSPECTIVES *Special days*

**A**  Listen to people discuss some special days of the year.



"My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. It's a day when North Americans celebrate the harvest. Everyone in the family gets together at our house. I cook a large turkey and serve it with cranberry sauce."



"February 14 is the day when people give cards and presents to the ones they love. I'm really looking forward to Valentine's Day this year! I already have the perfect gift for my boyfriend."



"I can't wait until the end of the year! New Year's Eve is a night when I have fun with my friends. We usually have a party at someone's house. We stay up all night and then go out for breakfast in the morning."

**B Pair work** Look at the statements again. Do you like any of the holidays? Which ones?

### 4 GRAMMAR FOCUS

#### Relative clauses of time

Thanksgiving is <b>a day</b>	<b>when</b> North Americans celebrate the harvest.
February 14 is <b>the day</b>	<b>when</b> people give cards to the ones they love.
New Year's Eve is <b>a night</b>	<b>when</b> I have fun with my friends.

**A** How much do you know about these days and months? Complete the sentences in column A with information from column B. Then compare with a partner.

**A**

1. New Year's Day is a day when .....
2. April Fools' Day is a day when .....
3. May and June are the months when .....
4. Valentine's Day is a day when .....
5. Labor Day is a day when .....
6. February is the month when .....

**B**

- a. Brazilians celebrate Carnival.
- b. people have parties with family and friends.
- c. many young adults choose to get married.
- d. people in many countries honor workers.
- e. people express their love to someone.
- f. people sometimes play tricks on friends.

**B** Complete these sentences with your own information. Then compare with a partner.

Winter is the season . . .  
Birthdays are days . . .  
Spring is the time of year . . .

Mother's Day is a day . . .  
July and August are the months . . .  
A wedding anniversary is a time . . .

## 5 LISTENING *Carnaval time*



Carnaval in Brazil

**A** ▶ Mike has just returned from Brazil. Listen to him talk about Carnaval. What did he enjoy most about it?

**B** ▶ Listen again and answer these questions.

What is Carnaval?  
How long does it last?  
When is it?  
What is the samba?

## 6 SPEAKING *Special days*

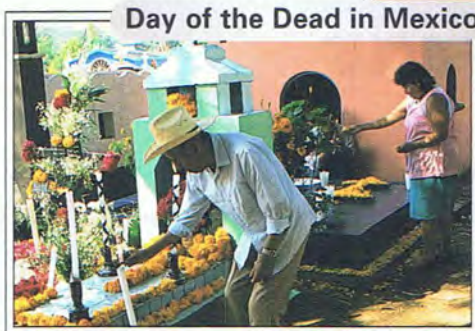
**A Pair work** Choose your three favorite holidays. Tell your partner why you like each one.

A: I really like New Year's Day.

B: What do you like about it?

A: Well, it's a day when I make my New Year's resolutions.

**B Class activity** Take a class vote. What are the most popular holidays in your class?



Day of the Dead in Mexico



Chinese New Year

## 7 WRITING *A travel guide*

**A** Write a paragraph for a travel magazine about a festival or celebration where you live. When is it? How do people celebrate it? What should a visitor be sure to see and do?

The annual fireworks festival in Yenshui, Taiwan, occurs on the last day of the New Year celebration. This is the first full moon of the new lunar year. It's a day when people explode fireworks in the streets, paint their faces, and dress up as ...



**B Pair work** Read your partner's paragraph. What do you like about it? Can you suggest anything to improve it?

## 8 CONVERSATION *Wedding day*

**A** Listen and practice.

Jill: Your wedding pictures are really beautiful, Emiko.

Emiko: Thank you. Those pictures were taken right after the ceremony.

Jill: Where was the ceremony?

Emiko: At a shrine. When people get married in Japan, they sometimes have the ceremony at a shrine.

Jill: That's interesting. Were there a lot of people there?

Emiko: Well, usually only family members and close friends go to the ceremony. But afterward we had a reception with family and friends.

Jill: So, what are receptions like in Japan?

Emiko: There's a big dinner, and after the food is served, the guests give speeches or sing songs.

Jill: It sounds like fun.

Emiko: It really is. And then, before the guests leave, the bride and groom give them presents.

Jill: The guests get presents?

Emiko: Yes, and the guests give money to the bride and groom.



**B** Listen to the rest of the conversation. What did the bride and groom give each guest?

## 9 PRONUNCIATION *Stress and rhythm*

**A** Listen and practice. Notice how stressed words and syllables occur with a regular rhythm.

When people get married in Japan, they sometimes have the ceremony at a shrine.

**B** Listen to the stress and rhythm in these sentences. Then practice them.

After the ceremony, there's a reception with family and friends.

Before the guests leave, the bride and groom give them presents.

The guests usually give money to the bride and groom.

# Unique CUSTOMS

Look at the photos. What do you think is happening in each picture?

- 1 January 17 is **St. Anthony's Day** in Mexico. It's a day when people ask for protection for their animals by bringing them to church. But before the animals go into the church, the people usually dress them up in flowers and ribbons.
- 2 On August 15 of the lunar calendar, Koreans celebrate **Chusok**, also known as Korean Thanksgiving. It's a day when people give thanks for the harvest. Korean families honor their ancestors by going to their graves to take them rice and fruit and clean the gravesites.
- 3 Long ago in India, a princess who needed help sent her silk bracelet to an emperor. Although he did not arrive in time to help her, he kept the bracelet as a sign of the bond between them. Today in India, during the festival of **Rakhi**, men promise to be loyal to their women. In exchange, the women give them a bracelet of silk, cotton, or gold thread.
- 4 One of the biggest celebrations in Argentina is **New Year's Eve**. On the evening of December 31, families get together and have a big meal. At midnight, fireworks explode everywhere and continue throughout the night. This is a day when friends and families meet for parties, which last until the next morning.
- 5 On the evening of February 3, people in Japan celebrate the end of winter and the beginning of spring. This is known as **Setsubun**. Family members throw dried beans around their homes, shouting, "Good luck in! Evil spirits out!" After they throw the beans, they pick them up and eat one bean for each year of their age.



**A** Read the article. Then answer these questions.

1. How do people in Mexico dress their animals on St. Anthony's Day?
2. Why do Koreans celebrate Chusok?
3. Why do Indian women give men a bracelet for the festival of Rakhi?
4. What do families in Argentina do on New Year's Eve?
5. What do Japanese families do during Setsubun?

**B** What do these words refer to? Write the correct word(s).

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. them (par. 1, line 2) .....  | 4. them (par. 3, line 5) ..... |
| 2. It (par. 2, line 2) .....    | 5. This (par. 4, line 4) ..... |
| 3. their (par. 2, line 4) ..... | 6. them (par. 5, line 5) ..... |

**C Pair work** Do you know of a celebration or custom that is similar to those in the article? Describe it.