Keeping Traditions Alive

Fill in the blanks with words from the previous exercise. Then, listen and check.

Fireworks are an American tradition on the Fourth of July. On that day in 1776, the thirteen colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. It was a historic moment that eventually led to the USA's independence. That is why this day is known as Independence Day and Americans celebrate the birthday of their country with on the country with parades on the streets, floats and extraordinary _____ (a) that light up the sky.

Even though fireworks were invented in China in the 7th century and were used to scare away evil spirits, today they are seen as spectacular displays that are out of this world and make people happy, not only on Independence Day, but also on New Year's Eve, at Christmas, as well as during important ceremonies in many countries worldwide!

The Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival. This old tradition marks the end of

winter and the beginning of _____ (b), a time when there is heavy rain and lots of flower's blossom. Originally, the Spring Festival was celebrated to defend their villages from the mythical evil _____ (c) the Nian, who came to eat _____ (d) like cows and horses, as well as fruit, vegetable crops and children. It was believed that putting food in front of their doors at the beginning of every year and wearing red clothes would prevent the Nian from attacking people. Nowadays, several customs are observed during this special celebration.

The Chinese celebrate in style by buying gifts, food, clothing, and decorations. Houses are decorated with red paper cutouts, red _____ (e) to illuminate the village, and scrolls with poems about fortune and happiness. The day before the Chinese New Year, people have a family dinner, visit friends and relatives, give red (f) filled with money and finish the night with firecrackers that make a loud noise when they explode.

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