

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

prosperous   prank   portent   immemorial   customary   destined   ward off  
hang onto   staple   put their own spin   go easy   milestone

#### 4. Cinnamon Challenge Tradition. Denmark



In Denmark, if you turn 25 and are still unmarried, it's 1) \_\_\_\_\_ for your friends and family to cover you in cinnamon. They don't 2) \_\_\_\_\_ on you, either, splashing you with water from head to toe so the cinnamon sticks better. If you cross 30 and are still single, the level of torture increases. The cinnamon is replaced by eggs and pepper. Contrary to what the actions suggest, nobody is being judged for still being single at 25. The average age of men getting married in Denmark is 34 and a half, and for women it's 32. Rather than a punishment, the tradition is just an excuse to play a 3) \_\_\_\_\_ and be silly with your friends when they reach 4) \_\_\_\_\_ ages. You might be wondering when it all began. According to Danes, the tradition dates hundreds of years back to when salesmen selling spices would travel around but in the process would be left single. They would hardly be in one place long enough to find a good partner for themselves. These male salesmen were called *pepper dudes* and their female counterparts were called *pepper maidens*.

#### 5. Greeting Magpies. UK



"One for sorrow, Two for joy, Three for a funeral, Four for birth, Five for heaven, Six for hell, Seven for the devil, his own self." There cannot be many birds in Britain that have had superstitious rhymes written about them, but the magpie certainly counts among that number! A single magpie has been regarded as a 1) \_\_\_\_\_ of doom since time 2) \_\_\_\_\_ — possibly stemming from the suggestion that the magpie was the only bird who didn't comfort or mourn Jesus as he died on the cross. It's also believed that it was the only bird not to go into the ark with Noah and stayed on Earth while it fell apart. To this day many people still have a ritual to 3) \_\_\_\_\_ the perceived bad influence of the magpie. If one is seen on its own some people salute it and say: "I salute you Mr Magpie." Many variations exist, others turn around three times and say: "Hello Mr Magpie, how are you today, where's your wife, your child and your family?"

#### 6. Doljabi. Korea



One of the traditions that many Koreans still 4) \_\_\_\_\_ is the celebration of their children's first birthday called Doljanchi. This is a long-held Korean tradition, which was something truly worthy of celebration back in the day, when infant mortality rates were high. The primary purpose of the ceremony is to bless a child with a 5) \_\_\_\_\_ future and a healthy life ahead, but it's also a fortune-telling event. Traditionally, a child is placed in front of 6) \_\_\_\_\_ objects (usually 6-8) like yarn, food or money and encouraged to grab one of them. It is believed that the object the baby selects will foretell his or her future. For example, if a baby picks up a pencil, he will be 7) \_\_\_\_\_ to be an intellect. If a baby picks up money, he will be wealthy. In modern days, many parents get creative and 8) \_\_\_\_\_ on the event. They might place objects that are fitting to their liking and taste, e.g. a microphone for a singer/celebrity or a play knife and a cutting board for a chef. Obviously, you would only want to use items representing careers and lifestyle of bright futures!