UNIT 11

READING

Milestones Around the World

Scan the article. Where does each milestone take place? Who is each milestone for?



EGYPT

In Egypt, many families with new babies celebrate *El Sebou'*, which means *the seventh*. Some say the ancient pharaohs believed that children who lived to be seven days old were ready for a long and healthy life. Family and friends meet at the parents' house, and the baby is put in a round wooden cradle called a *ghorbal*. Songs are sung, and the baby is rocked gently to awaken its senses. Salt is scattered to keep evil away, and the mother carries the baby around the house. Children follow with lit candles. Finally, bags full of candies, sweets, and gold- and silver-like coins are distributed to all attendees.



MEXICO

Families in Mexico and several other Latin American countries have a special celebration for *La quinceañera*, the birthday girl who turns 15 years old. It marks a girl's passage from girlhood to womanhood. Wearing a spectacular dress and carrying a bouquet of flowers, the girl arrives at a church for a thanksgiving service. Then there is a party with live music, dancing, and plenty of delicious food. An important moment is when the girl cuts a multilayered birthday cake.



VANUATU

On a single island in the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu, young men hurl themselves from a 30-meter wooden tower, with only vines tied around their ankles to break their fall. The original bungee jumpers, these "land divers" jump to prove their manhood. The goal is for the young man's shoulder to just touch the ground. The vines' measurement must be exact as there is no safety net. When a young man jumps, his mother holds a favorite childhood item. After the jump, she throws the item away, demonstrating that he is now a man.

A Read the article. Find the words in *italics* in the article. Then match each word with its meaning.

..... 1. *senses*	a. thrown in different directions
..... 2. *scattered*	b. demonstrate
..... 3. *spectacular*	c. throw
..... 4. *plenty*	d. sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell
..... 5. *hurl*	e. very exciting to look at
..... 6. *prove*	f. more than enough

B Check (✓) the correct milestone(s) for each description.

	El Sebou'	La quinceañera	Land diving
1. The person's family participates.	☐	☐	☐
2. There is a religious ceremony.	☐	☐	☐
3. Children carry candles.	☐	☐	☐
4. The event is dangerous.	☐	☐	☐
5. The event requires special clothing.	☐	☐	☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS