

WRITTEN COMPREHENSION

TRAVEL NOW

Travelling with a Difference!

Have you got your backpack ready? Are you going to travel abroad this summer?

Why don't you try something different? Perhaps these festivals aren't in your guidebook, but they're certainly interesting!



GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

Do you like monkeys? Then come to Lopburi, Thailand on the last Sunday of November. Local people will be preparing a huge meal for the 3,000 monkeys in the town. The people believe the meal will bring them good luck. Waiters will be setting up tables with over 2,000 kilos of food, including fruit, eggs, cucumbers and bananas. When you go, wear a money belt and take good care of your belongings, especially sunglasses and camera cases – the monkeys will be doing everything they can to steal them!

MAKING A PIG OF YOURSELF!

On the second Sunday in August, you'll hear some really strange sounds in the French town of Trie-sur-Baïse. It's La Pourcailhade, the local pig festival. Everything is about pigs. The town will be holding a piglet race and a sausage-eating competition – pork sausages, of course! However, the highlight is the Cri du Cochon. In this contest, people try imitating different pig sounds. Why don't you give it a try? It'll be great fun – unless you're a pig!

ANYONE FOR CHOCOLATE ... ANTS?

Do you know what arthropods are? No? Then you should go to BugFest in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA. Arthropods are animals without backbones, for example insects and spiders, and they are three-quarters of all the animals on Earth. At BugFest, you will learn about them all, from tarantula spiders to tiny ants and bugs. You can taste them, too! At the Café Insecta, local chefs prepare meals with different types of bugs, including chocolate-covered ants. Don't forget to take insect repellent with you – you'll need it! The next BugFest starts on 19th September. I'll be attending this year. Will you?



1. Read the travel magazine article about three festivals.
What have they got in common...?
2. At which of the festivals (Lopburi Monkey Festival, La Pourcailhade or BugFest) can you...?
 - a) find out facts about animals
 - b) hear animal sounds
 - c) eat unusual food
 - d) feed animals
 - e) watch animals run fast
3. Answer the questions.
 - a) What should visitors to Lopburi be careful to do? Why?
 - b) Why will visitors in Trie-sur-Baïse hear strange sounds?
 - c) On what date does the next pig festival begin in Trie-sur-Baïse? Use a calendar to help you.
 - d) Are there many arthropods in the world? Which sentence gives you the answer?
4. Find the words or phrases in the text to match the definitions below.
 - a) maybe (lines 1-10)
 - b) things you own (lines 11-16)
 - c) having (lines 17-22)
 - d) copying (lines 17-22)
 - e) make (lines 23-29)