A SPECIAL celebration

A report for *Language News*, by Richard Collins

It's 1 November and I'm in Mexico. I'm talking to Gabriela about a very special holiday: we're celebrating Day of the Innocents today and tomorrow is Day of the Dead. It's a time to remember, but it isn't a day to be scared. It's a happy holiday with parties, dancing, singing, fireworks and food. So, what are Gabriela and her family doing today?



A .....

"Here you can see we've got sugar skulls. All of the children have these for Day of the Dead. We aren't eating them at the moment; we're painting them with food colours and names. Purple and orange are important colours."



B .....

"Skulls, skeletons and flowers are an important part of the celebrations. We use them for fancy dress and face painting. In this picture, my cousin is painting my face. I'm not moving or talking. I'm standing very still because I don't want paint in my eyes!"

C .....

"It's the evening and we're sitting at the table now. We're having a special dinner for this celebration. Here's a photo of my food. There's salad, rice, a taco and enchiladas! We have fruit, special bread and hot chocolate, too. Do you feel hungry?"



1 Read the skill tip. Look at the title of the report and the photos. What questions do you want to ask?

Why is it a special celebration?

What's the girl's name?

skill tip

Before you read, think of questions you want to find answers for. Use the title and pictures to help you.

2 Read the report. Match the questions (1–3) with the paragraphs (A–C).

1 Is this a special meal?
2 Are you painting this white thing?
3 What are you doing to your face?

3 Read the report again. Answer the questions.

1 Who is the news reporter?

2 Name some 'happy things' about this holiday.

3 Why is Gabriela standing very still in the photo?

4 What food has she got on her plate?

4 Complete the text about the report with one word in each gap.

It's 1 [1] ..... . This report is about Day of the Dead in [2] ..... . Gabriela and her sisters are painting [3] ..... skulls. They've got purple and [4] ..... paint. On Day of the Dead people wear fancy [5] ..... . Some people paint their [6] ..... . Gabriela takes a [7] ..... . It's a picture of the [8] ..... on her plate.

5 What festivals are there in your country? What do you eat at these festivals?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

All about Pancake Day

A report for Thornton School by Louise Martin

Today we're celebrating Pancake Day. So what is almost everyone at doing after school this afternoon? Why do we do it? Let's ask my mum.

(A) "I'm mixing the ingredients for pancakes. I've got eggs, milk and flour in here. I'm mixing them all really well. I'm not cooking the pancakes now. I wait for half an hour first."



(B) "We make pancakes because it is the last Tuesday before Lent starts. Lent is a religious festival which happens every year. In Lent you don't eat things like eggs or butter. We are making pancakes because we want to finish the food in the house. In Lent people often don't eat the things they really like. So this year I'm not eating chocolate in Lent – that's forty days!"



(C) "It's time to cook the pancakes now. Cooking is the difficult part! When you're cooking pancakes, you do one side and then you turn them over to cook the other side. You move the pan and throw the pancake in the air. It's called tossing the pancake. It doesn't always work! OK. Ready? Three, two, one! ..."



Yum! They're ready! I'm eating my pancakes with lemon juice and sugar. What about you?

READING

1 Read the report. Match the questions (1–3) with the paragraphs (A–C).

1 Why do people make pancakes? .....
2 What is pancake tossing? .....
3 What are you doing? .....

2 e Read the report again. Complete the sentences with one, two or three words in each gap.

A Louise's mum is mixing eggs, ...milk..... and flour.
1 Louise's mum ..... for half an hour before she cooks the pancakes.
B 2 Pancake Day is always on ..... .
3 People make pancakes to ..... in the house.
4 Louise's mum ..... chocolate in Lent this year.
C 5 Cooking pancakes is ..... because you need to turn them over by throwing them in the air.
6 Louise is ..... pancakes with lemon juice and sugar.

3 Think of another food you would like to make. Make a list of the ingredients you will need.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS