

English Worksheet: Superstitions Around the World

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: 9th Grade

Objective: To explore and understand common superstitions, their cultural origins, and the language used to describe them.

Part 1: Multiple Choice (Single Correct Answer)

Read the questions carefully and choose the best answer.

1. What is a superstition?

- a) A scientifically proven fact.
- b) A belief or practice that is based on fear of the unknown and not on reason or knowledge.
- c) A religious law that must be followed.
- d) A popular trend on social media.

2. In the United Kingdom, what is considered bad luck if you walk under it?



- a) A rainbow
- b) A ladder
- c) A bridge
- d) A power line

3. If a black cat crosses your path in many Western cultures, it is believed to be:

- a) A sign of good weather.
- b) A sign of good luck.
- c) A sign of bad luck.
- d) A sign that you will find money.

Part 2: Choose the Correct Word/Phrase

Complete the sentences by selecting the most appropriate word or phrase from the options provided.

Many people believe that if you (knock / break / open) on wood, it will prevent a good thing from going bad.

In some Asian cultures, the number 4 is considered (lucky / unlucky / neutral) because it sounds similar to the word for “death.”

Athletes often have personal (traditions / rules / superstitions), like wearing the same socks for every game, to help them feel confident.

Part 3: Matching

Match the superstition on the left with its typical meaning or origin on the right.

Superstition

Meaning/Origin

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Throwing spilt salt over your shoulder | A) An ancient fear of reflections being a part of one’s soul. |
| 2. Saying “Bless you” after a sneeze | B) To ward off the devil you may have let in by sneezing. |
| 3. Breaking a mirror brings 7 years of bad luck | C) To blind the devil that is behind you, who caused the spill. |
| 4. Avoiding the number 13 (Triskaidekaphobia) | D) A belief that 13 was an unlucky number at the Last Supper. |

Answers: 1. ____, 2. ____, 3. ____, 4. ____

Part 4: Drag the Words into the Text

Drag and drop the words below into the correct blanks in the paragraph.

Word Bank: luck, ladder, black cat, mirrors, Friday the 13th



Superstitions vary greatly across the globe. For instance, in Russia, it is considered bad luck to hand someone an empty wallet; you should always put at least one coin inside to wish them good (1) _____. A common fear in many countries is (2) _____, which is associated with misfortune. Some people avoid walking under a (3) _____, a superstition that might originate from the triangle shape resembling the gallows. Conversely, in many cultures, a (4) _____ crossing your path is a bad omen, while in others, it is a sign of good fortune. The fear of breaking (5) _____ stems from the ancient belief that a mirror holds a part of your soul.

Part 5: Fill in the Blanks

Complete the paragraph below by dragging the correct words from the word bank into the blanks.

Word Bank: anxiety, culture, omen, rational, rituals

Superstitions are fascinating aspects of any (1) _____. They are beliefs or practices that are often not based on (2) _____ thought. For example, many people see a black cat as an (3) _____ of bad luck. To counteract this, they might perform small (4) _____, like knocking on wood. These actions can help reduce the feeling of (5) _____ about uncertain future events.

Part 6: Open-Ended Question

Write a short paragraph (5-7 sentences) expressing your opinion.

Do you think superstitions are harmless traditions or irrational beliefs that should be abandoned? Use at least one example to support your point of view.