1.What should the main New Year tree of the country look like?
2. What is one of the legends of the Christmas tree?
3. What are the advantages of artificial Christmas trees?
4. What rules did people follow in the past when decorating the Christmas tree?
5. Who changed the date of New Year's Day in his country?
6. How did the technological progress change Christmas decorations?
7. How did the tradition of decorating the tree with coloured glass balls start?

A. Why do people decorate Christmas trees at home? There are several stories about the start of the tradition. One of them is about Martin Luther, the founder of the protestant faith. While he was walking through a forest on a Christmas Eve, he looked up and was impressed by the beauty of the stars that were shining through the tree branches. He cut down a small tree and took it home. There, he decorated the tree with candles as a present for his family.

B. The tradition of decorating a Christmas tree comes from Germany. Until the 17th century, people decorated their Christmas tree in a certain order. Firstly, a star was fixed on the top. Then people hung apples on lower branches of the tree. Finally, they placed biscuits, gingerbread and sweets underneath. The Christmas tree in the fairy tale Nutcracker was decorated in exactly this way.

C. The Christmas tree tradition came to Russia with Peter the Great in the 18th century. He enjoyed the celebration tradition in Germany and issued a law according to which all families had to decorate their houses with pine tree branches. It also announced that people should have fun on that day. Peter the Great also decided to move New Year's celebration from 1st September to 1st January.

D. The most popular Christmas decoration was invented by a German glass-blower. He made a ball and decorated it with angel figures and snowflakes. The man gave it as a gift to his daughter. The girl decided to put the ball on the Christmas tree. It was so beautiful that the glass-blower made many more decorated balls and sold them. Now people all over the world choose to decorate their Christmas trees in this way.

E. In the 18th century, people started decorating Christmas trees with candles. Later, with the discovery of electricity, electric lights were put on Christmas trees. It was Edward Johnson, an assistant of Thomas Edison, who first used electric lights for Christmas tree decoration. People liked his idea. However, it took several years before the electric lights became available to the general public.

F. Nowadays, Christmas trees are found everywhere – in houses, on the streets and squares. Most of them are artificial trees. However, in the centre of Moscow, in the Kremlin, you can always see a natural Christmas tree. The most important tree of the country is carefully chosen in the forest – it should be tall and beautiful. Professional designers decorate it to create an unforgettable fairytale tree for thousands of children and their parents.

	A	B	C	D	E	F

LIVEWORKSHEETS

KAMCHATKA

When I think back to my journey to Kamchatka, it feels like I visited another world. My job involves lots of travelling, as I'm a wildlife photographer. I'm not a person who can be easily impressed, but Kamchatka amazed me! It is a peninsula in the far east of Russia, very far from big cities, and it cannot be called a popular tourist destination.

It is not easy to get there. People usually do it by boat or by helicopter, and maybe this is why the nature of the region still looks so wild and untouched. The rivers and streams (and there are more than 14,000 of them on the peninsula) cut through mountains and valleys, making the landscape wild and dramatic.

The first thing I noticed was the volcanoes. Kamchatka has more than three hundred volcanoes, and some of them are still active. When I saw smoke rising from the crater of Klyuchevskaya Sopka, the highest volcano in Eurasia, I felt both afraid and excited. Walking on the black volcanic soil was like walking on another planet. I took some photos of the landscape, which looked like shots from a space-exploration film. The ground was warm in some places, and small hot springs bubbled out of the earth.

I had seen geysers before Kamchatka, but nothing like the Valley of the Geysers! The guide said there were about 40 to 90 geysers, depending on how you count. Some of them erupt regularly every 15 minutes, and others once in a few hours. The temperature of the water is very high; it may be close to the boiling point, near 95-100°C.

The guide explained that in 2007, a large landslide happened in the Valley, which dramatically changed the landscape of the place. Mud, rocks and sand buried many geysers, and some of them were flooded by water, but that was how a new lake was formed. It is cold Geysernaya Lake, and I felt privileged to see it, as not many people can.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Along with being remote and difficult to reach, the Valley of Geysers is a very vulnerable place and needs protection. Tourists are allowed there in very small quantities. They are usually taken there by helicopter, and then they have to use special walking paths, so as not to cause any damage to the environment. There are lots of other amazing places on Kamchatka which I want to see when I go (hopefully!) there next time.

And, of course, as a wildlife photographer, I took a lot of shots of the animals on Kamchatka. You probably know that Kamchatka has the highest concentration of brown bears in the world. In summer, you can see dozens of bears fishing for salmon in the same river at the same time. But I will write about that in my next entry…

1) The narrator's job keeps him in his office most of the time. **T\F\NS**

2) The narrator got to Kamchatka by helicopter.

3) The narrator did not see any smoking volcanoes during his trip.

4) According to the guide, the water from the geysers was suitable for drinking.

5) Geysernaya Lake is a man-made lake.

6) The number of tourists who can visit the Valley of Geysers is restricted.

7) According to the narrator, there is a large population of brown bears on Kamchatka.

WF

Прочитайте приведённый ниже текст. Преобразуйте слова, напечатанные заглавными буквами в конце строк, обозначенных номерами 29—34 так, чтобы они грамматически и лексически соответствовали содержанию текста. Заполните пропуски полученными словами. Каждый пропуск соответствует отдельному заданию 29—34.		
29	There are lots of products that help us fight bad moods and depression. If you feel down and _____, just get a bar of dark chocolate from the fridge.	SLEEP
30	Chocolate will improve your mood and you'll feel _____ and happy again.	CHEER
31	This _____ is often used in chocolate adverts.	INFORM
32	Unfortunately, we can't use this method too often. The positive effect does not last long. Meanwhile chocolate is not _____ food.	HARM
33	It contains fat and sugar which can make you overweight. Some people may also be allergic to chocolate and it can affect their _____, causing skin problems.	APPEAR

LIVEWORKSHEETS

34	The alternative and _____ safe method to fight depression is doing sport. It can be recommended to everyone!	ABSOLUTE

LIVEWORKSHEETS