

## Reading 2

### FESTIVALS IN AMERICA

Across the United States each region has its own festivals or events, but there are some that are shared by all. Independence Day celebrates the separation of America from British colonial power. Thanksgiving is another traditional United States holiday, commemorating the European arrival at Plymouth Rock with family feasts. On most of these national days, the majority of stores and businesses are closed.

#### **New Year's Eve**

The US celebrates the outgoing of the old year and incoming of the New Year quite dramatically. Every state celebrates its own parties to welcome the New Year, but none is more extravagant than New York's Time Square, which sees the neighbouring restaurants, bars, parks, beaches, and neighbourhoods full of people.

#### **Super Bowl Sunday**

The world's most watched sporting event, Superbowl Sunday is a spectacular extravaganza. Held the first Sunday in February, the Superbowl is the final playoff game between the NFL's top two teams. The location rotates every year around America, but the local parties seem to remain. Pubs, bars and restaurants are great places to enjoy the Superbowl. Also locals throw their own parties with different variations of betting.

#### **St Patrick's Day**

The US's large Irish population celebrate March 17. In many cities around the country, noisy and colourful parades and Irish-themed parties are organised, especially in New York and Chicago, where the river becomes green.

#### **Memorial Day**

Memorial Day is an important holiday throughout the United States, but not for crazy festivities. Parades commemorating wartime heroes are often held and the day is also the 'unofficial' start of summer. Most visitors follow the crowds to parks and beaches, where they can find many of informal BBQs.

### Independence Day

Also known as the Fourth of July, Independence Day celebrates the US's break from the British during the 18th century. Barbecues, street parties, beach trips, and weekend getaways are commonplace to appreciate freedom.

### Halloween

Halloween is a fun holiday on October 31 for all generations to dress up in costumes and relive their youth. Children walk around the neighbourhood trick-or-treating for candy, while adults attend parties. Other seasonal events include haunted houses, pumpkin farms and carving, and corn mazes.

### Thanksgiving

On the fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving is held in almost every home in the US. Tourists will have a hard time finding anything to do as the country essentially shuts down. A typical Thanksgiving meal consists of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie commemorating the original Pilgrim's feast at Plymouth Rock.

**20. According to the text which of the following sentences are true and which ones are false:**

	True	False
A. In the United States all the festivals are celebrated all across the country.		
B. Independence Day celebrates the union of the US with Great Britain.		
C. Thanksgiving is an interesting holiday as a tourist in United States.		
D. Most shops close on many national days.		

**21. In NY's Times Square the most \_\_\_\_\_ party takes place.**

**22. According to the text, which festivals are related to Europe?**

- A. Super bowl, Thanksgiving, Independence Day.
- B. St. Patrick's Day, Halloween, Independence Day.
- C. St. Patrick's Day, Thanksgiving, Independence Day.
- D. Thanksgiving, Independence Day, New Year's Eve.

**23. In this holiday, in some cities the river changes its colour.**

- A. Super bowl.
- B. St. Patrick's Day.
- C. New Year's Eve.
- D. Independence Day.

**24. Memorial Day commemorates...**

- A. ... a crazy party.
- B. ... people who died at war.
- C. ... the beginning of the summer.
- D. .... BBQs on the beach.

**25. In Halloween everyone feels younger thanks to ...**

- A. ... candy and parties.
- B. ... trick or treat.
- C. ... parties.
- D. ... costumes.

**26. When is it typical to eat pumpkin pie?**

- A. During Halloween.
- B. During the Memorial Day.
- C. During Thanksgiving.
- D. During New Year's Eve.

**27.** Where can you find this type of text?

- A. In a local newspaper.
- B. In a travel brochure.
- C. In a religion book.
- D. In a science book.