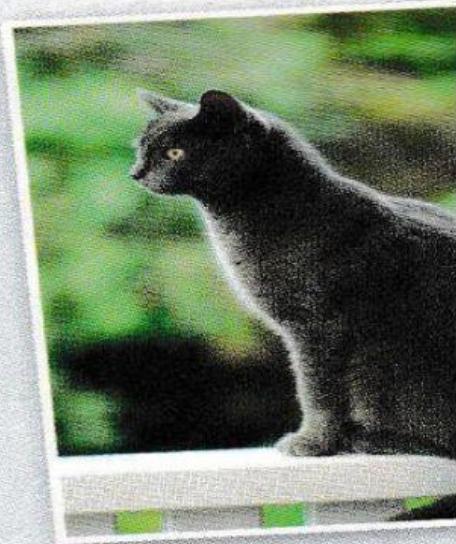


▶ Complete the essay with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

The history of superstitions

How long (1) ... people ... (have) superstitions? Probably since the world (2) ... (begin)! For thousands of years, people (3) ... (look) for ways to explain why certain things happen.



The evil eye

The superstition of the evil eye (4) ... (exist) in Greece since ancient times. The ancient Greeks (5) ... (believe) that some people could have a bad effect on others just by looking at them. Since then, Greek people (6) ... (wear) special bracelets with a blue 'eye' on them to protect them from evil.

Cats

For centuries, people (7) ... (think) that cats have magical powers. For this reason, the ancient Egyptians (8) ... (keep) cats in their homes and (9) ... (not allow) anyone to treat them badly.

The number 13

Why (10) ... this number ... (become) an unlucky number? Some people say it is because there (11) ... (be) 13 people at Christ's last meal. Friday the 13th (12) ... (not always be) an unlucky date. People only (13) ... (start) being superstitious about it in the 20th century, but no one really knows why.