TRADITIONS AND FESTIVITIES OF ECUADOR

A. Read the passage.

Ecuador's early settlers, their adoption of the Christian faith and their contemporary way of life today provides an interesting mixture which is still present in the country's cultural expressions.
Festivities of Ecuador include religious ceremonies often using Andean symbols, as well as different ceremonies that are sacred to each village. In each celebration, it is easy to notice different types of characters. They have lots of characters from devils to bulls – also known as Toros de pueblo – along with a unique atmosphere and captivating decor which provides a systematic illustration of traditions, rituals, and customs by those celebrating these traditional ceremonies.



One key moment of these festivals is the performance by the Banda de Pueblo. These people offer their national music to entertain and contribute to the celebration. It is also conventional for these festivals to include the drinking of brandy and liquor. Moreover, many people will toast with a glass of chicha – a traditional drink that has become part of the celebration's furniture.

B. Read again and choose TRUE or FALSE according to the information.

1. Ecuadorian festivities don't include religious ceremonies. TRUE FALSE
2. There are a lot characters according to the festivities. TRUE FALSE
3. Ecuador doesn't have traditions, rituals, and customs in its regions. TRUE FALSE
4. Banda de Pueblo is a performance in different festivals. TRUE FALSE
5. Chicha is a traditional drink that is part in Ecuadorian celebration. TRUE FALSE

C. Match the images with the Ecuadorian holidays as appropriate.









The Inti Raymi or the celebration of the Sun. It celebrates the June solstice, which for the Incas marked the beginning of Winter.	People have the tradition of visiting the graves of their loved ones and eat Guaguas de pan,	Families make or buy life-size rag or paper dolls, which are burnt on the streets at midnight.	It is celebrated in the Tungurahua's province at the beginning of the year. Men dressed up as devils and folk dances throughout the city.

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D. Investigate and associate the holiday with the corresponding date.

FESTIVITY	DATE
Epiphany's Day – Día de Reyes	December 6th
Battle of Pichincha	October 9th
Corpus Christi	August 10th
Paseo del Chagra	July 21st
First cry for independence	June 15th
Independence of Guayaquil	May 24th
Spanish Foundation of Quito	Januay 6th

E. Match the picture with the definition.

	a deep-fried ball. The balls can be filled with a variety of fillings either sweet or savory. They are made with corn flour.
	It is a liquor made from grapes, it has a sweet taste and is often consumed with desserts.
	It is a drink made out of eggs, milk and vanilla flavoring.
	A traditional dish brought from North America and other countries around the world.
	Which is roasted pork leg marinated in garlic and beer.

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F. Read the passage.

Christmas in Ecuador: how do Ecuadorians celebrate it?

Christmas is an international known holiday. However, many countries or cultures celebrate it differently. Ecuador has Christmas traditions that are interesting if you are planning to visit the country during this season.
First of all, Ecuador loves to have big Christmas trees. Last year, Machala, a city in the south of the country, won the contest with their 33-meter long Christmas tree. Not all cities will have a tree, but the majority of the cities have Christmas shows that are worth to see, for example, Pase del Nino! Read more about de shows down below.

Most of the households decorate the inside of their house by having a traditional scene with little dolls of the Christmas story. Some of the houses are decorated from the outside while others aren't. However, you can find Christmas light decorations in the streets everywhere you go.

The Christmas season starts with La Novena which are the nine days before Christmas Eve. It is a prayer for Christmas that tells what happened in the nine-month pregnancy of Maria. Every day has its own special prayer. In many communities, these days have become important social events for families to celebrate with drinks and food.

On Christmas Eve, Ecuadorian families gather around and have big family meals. It is common to prepare the meal together since there are many mouths to feed so many hands needed for help! One of the traditional dishes for Christmas is roasted turkey, Hornado de Chancho and Buñuelos. Besides all the food, there are also traditional drinks for Christmas like Rompope and Mistela, which are originally Spanish drinks.

Pase del Nino is a celebration that also takes place on Christmas Eve. During this celebration, local people carry a statue or image of baby Jesus through the streets. This is often accompanied by people dressed up as Mary, Joseph, and the Three Kings, traditional musicians or bands, and folkloric dancers. This all together to create an amazing parade in the streets.



Pase del Nino parade
In the evening of 28th November, there is a special event at the Panecillo statue in the Old Town of Quito. Next, to the 45 meters high virgin, you can see other statues that represent the Christmas story. The other statues represent Josef, the three Wiseman, and a donkey. The statues are made of metal anchored to concrete bases and illuminated by thousands of lights.

C. Read again the passage and choose the statement that don't belong according to the reading

1. Ecuadorian people decorate their homes with traditional scenes.
2. The Christmas season starts with La Novena.
3. People have big families meals with guaguas de pan on Christmas.
4. People carry a statue or image of baby Jesus through the streets in Pase del Niño.
5. In the evening of 28th December, there is a special event at the Panecillo statue in the Old Town of Quito.

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