EXTRA ACTIVITY: CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS

JIGSAW READING

INSTRUCTION:

Work individually and complete the table for the assigned text.

Then, work in groups, share the information and complete the table for all texts.

Text A

The Snake Festival

1. Find the meaning of the following words: snake statue
2. Then read the text and fill in the table below.

Every year on the first Thursday in May the small village of Cocullo in Italy sees thousands of visitors. They are all arriving to see the annual Snake Festival. The festival is held on Saint Dominic's Day. St Dominic lived in the town in the 11th century. At that time there were many snakes in the village and many people died of snakebite. Saint Domenic got rid of the snakes and the people of Cocullo hold this festival every year to remember him. For some weeks before the festival, people collect snakes and then, on St Dominic's Day, they put all the snakes on a statue of St Dominic. At midday they carry the statue and the snakes in a procession through the village. At the front of the procession is a band playing music and at the back are women in costume who give sweets and bread shaped like snakes to the people who are watching. At the end of the procession there are fireworks.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Text B

The Land Diving Festival

1. Find the meaning of the following words: tower, vines, harvest, bungy jumping
2. Then read the text and fill in the table below.

Pentecost Island in Vanuatu is famous for the Land Diving Festival, which takes place every Saturday in May. This festival celebrates the harvest, but there is an old story which says that it began when a woman had an argument with her husband and ran off into the forest. He followed her and she climbed a tree to get away. He climbed the tree after her and she jumped down. He jumped after her and was injured. She was unhurt because she had tied a vine to her ankle which stopped her hitting the ground. Now the men of the island hold this festival every year. They build a wooden tower, 20 to 30 metres high. They climb the tower and tie vines to their ankles. Then they jump off the tower. The people below sing and dance to encourage them. The islanders believe that the higher you jump, the better the harvest will be. In the 1980's the New Zealander AJ Hackett developed the modern sport of bungy jumping, based on this festival.

Text C

The Hong Kong Bun Festival

1. Find the meaning of the following words: pirate, drive away, bun, tower
2. Then read the text and fill in the table below.

This festival is held on the island on Cheung Chau in Hong Kong in early May every year, around the time of Buddha's birthday. The festival celebrates the god Pak Tai, who drove pirates and illness away from the island. In the festival, the islanders pray for safety from pirates and illness. The festival lasts for seven days. For three of those days everyone on the island is vegetarian. There is a procession through the village with lion dances, dragon dances and musicians. In the procession children in colourful costumes are carried high above people's heads. The islanders make three 20-metre high bamboo towers and cover these with buns. At midnight on the last day people light fires and then climb the towers to get the buns. They wear bags on their backs to collect the buns and when they come down from the towers, they give them to everyone who is watching. Then everyone celebrates with fireworks.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Text D

May Day

1. Find the meaning of the following words: pole, ribbons, crown, roll, steep
2. Then read the text and fill in the table below.

The first of May is called May Day in Britain. This is a very old festival held to celebrate the first day of summer. Many towns and villages still hold traditional May Day celebrations. Some towns and villages decorate the streets and houses with flowers. In others, there is dancing and the people put up a Maypole. This is a tall pole with coloured ribbons hanging from the top. The dancers take a ribbon each and dance around the pole. As they dance, the ribbons make a colourful pattern around the Maypole. It is also traditional to choose a May Queen and crown her. She wears a white dress and a crown of flowers and walks at the front of a procession through the streets. In Padstow, a village in the south-west, two men dress up as horses and everyone follows them through the streets singing an old song. In another village there is a 'Cheese Rolling' competition. Everyone goes to the top of a very steep hill. A big round cheese is rolled down the hill and everyone tries to chase it. The winner gets free cheese for twenty years!

	Snake Festival	Bun Festival	Land Diving Festival	May Day
Where?				
When?				
Why?				
What happens?				
Special Food?				

LIVEWORKSHEETS