

READING AND WRITING

A Read the article.

Celebrating Life Changes

In Mexico and some other Latin American countries, some girls mark their 15th birthday with a celebration called a *fiesta de quinceañera*. In the morning, the birthday girl goes to church with her family and her best friends. She wears a beautiful (and sometimes very expensive) dress given to her for the occasion. Later in the day, there is a huge party, with a big cake that matches the style or color of the girl's dress in some way. The night is filled with music and dancing.

When older people in the United States retire, their friends and coworkers often throw them a retirement party to celebrate this life change. On their last day of work, there is a big dinner, with entertainment afterward. People make speeches and tell jokes about the retiree. Guests like to give presents, such as a watch or an album of photos of the person's coworkers.

Becoming an adult is a very important life change, and Japan has a special holiday to celebrate this. The second Sunday in January is *Coming-of-Age Day*. On that day, everyone who had their 20th birthday in the previous year goes to their city or town hall for a special ceremony. Everyone dresses up, and many women wear beautiful kimonos. The mayor makes a speech and gives presents to all the new adults.



Some kids are afraid to start school, but six-year-olds in Germany can't wait. For them, *Schulanfang* is a big holiday. To celebrate a child's first day of school, parents or friends give the child a *Zuckertüte*, a big colorful cardboard cone filled with candy and little presents. People take pictures of the kids holding their *Zuckertüte*, and there is a school party later for the parents with cake and coffee.



B Complete the chart with information from the reading.

What	Quinceañera			Schulanfang
Where	Mexico		Japan	
When			second Sunday in January	
Who		people who are retiring		
What people do			dress up, go to city or town hall, hear a speech	
What the person gets			presents	