

Culture Reading Comprehension

Child climbs to top in human tower competition BARCELONA

A team from Valls was the winner of the human tower -castell – competition in a festival in Barcelona yesterday. These competitions happen in festivals all over Catalonia. The hometown of the winning team – Valls – is the town where this tradition started in 1801.

The castells today are much taller and more complicated than the first towers. The highest castell in history was ten floors high with three people in each floor. Some of the biggest castells have more than 600 tower builders – castellers.

As the tower gets higher, the castellers get smaller and lighter. Finally, a child climbs to the top. He or she puts up a hand to show the tower is finished.

Girls and women now take part. In fact, the youngest climbers are often girls because they are lighter and have stronger hands than boys.

Castells often fall down and people sometimes get hurt. After a number of accidents, children who climb the human towers now have to wear helmets.

In some competitions a group of judges chooses the winner. But in the one in Barcelona yesterday, it was the shouts of the people around the tower who chose the team from Valls.

Choose the correct answer.

1. The tradition started in Barcelona / Valls.
2. The tallest castell ever had ten levels / people on top.
3. The biggest teams have more than 60 / 600 castellers.
4. The tower finish with a child / man at the top.
5. The judges / people watching choose the winning tower yesterday.

