Celebrations around the world by Brayan Duarte

1. Read the article below and answer the quetions

April Fool's Day

April Fool's Day is celebrated on 1 April in many countries around the world. On this day, people play practical jokes on each other and have fun trying to make other people believe things that are not true.

Jokes with your friends and family

In the UK and many other places, people play any kind of practical joke, but it's important to remember that the joke should be funny for everybody and not make the other person feel bad. Some jokes you can play include these.

Make some fruit jelly in a glass. Then ask someone if they want some juice. Give them the glass and watch them try to drink it!

Have you got a toy plastic spider? Put it in someone's shoe! Then, when they get scared, you can be the hero who takes the scary spider away!

If you have a clock in your kitchen, get up early and change it to show it's one hour later. Then, when your family is having breakfast, they'll think that they're late for work or school!

Then shout 'April Fool!' so that everyone knows it was a joke!

In France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and French-speaking areas of Canada and Switzerland, the 1 April tradition is known as the 'April Fish'. A common joke is to try to stick a paper fish onto someone's back when that person isn't looking.

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In many Spanish-speaking countries as well as the Philippines, there is also a special day for playing jokes, but it's in December instead of April.

Jokes in the news

On April Fool's Day, there are often jokes in the news, on TV or on websites.

In 2008 the BBC made a short video which showed the 'news' that some penguins had learned to fly! Two big UK newspapers wrote about the 'important story' on their front pages.

One year in the UK, a children's news programme said that scientists had invented a 'Brain Band'. It was a coloured headband that you put on your head and it helped to make you more intelligent!

Another famous joke is 'Google Nose'. Google said it was a new app you could use to search the internet for a smell. For example, if you searched for 'flowers', you could click a button and smell them!

Of course, every day we need to think carefully about what we believe when we read or watch news and other stories, especially online. But on 1 April, be extra careful! Happy April Fool's Day!

- April Fool's Day is on 1 April every year.
- It's good if a joke makes the other person feel really bad.
- The jelly joke is funny because you can drink juice, but you can't drink jelly!
- You should put real spiders in people's shoes.

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- In some countries, like France, a common joke is putting a fish in someone's drink.
- In other countries, like Spain, there's a day for jokes in December.
- One year, some newspapers said that pigs could fly.
- You should always think about whether things you see online are true.

Christmas

Christmas is celebrated in around 160 countries around the world! Christmas celebrations can start from the beginning of December in some places, and in others they go on until January.

Christmas decorations

Christmas is a time for colourful decorations and lights. In many countries, people put up Christmas trees in their homes. These can be either real trees or artificial ones. They decorate them with lights, tinsel and baubles and often put a star on the top. In many towns and cities you can see lights and other decorations in the streets.

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Christmas presents

Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, brings presents to many children around the world at Christmas! They sometimes get presents in a stocking – a large sock that children leave out when they go to bed on the night before Christmas. Other children get small presents in their shoes. In some countries, the presents come from other people, such as the Three Kings or the Baby Jesus.

Christmas food

Christmas food is different all over the world. Some people eat roast meat and potatoes, some eat fish, others eat soup or vegetable dishes. Many countries have traditional puddings, desserts, biscuits and cakes. Christmas is often a time for families to share delicious meals together.

A Christian Christmas

For many Christians around the world, Christmas is the time to remember the birth of the baby Jesus. In the UK, some schools have a nativity play, where children dress up and tell the story of Christmas. In many countries, there are nativity scenes in churches or in people's homes. Nativity scenes are small displays of figures, showing the different people and animals in the Christmas story.

Christmas weather

In lots of Christmas films, books and songs, there's snow, ice and snowmen. For some countries in the northern hemisphere, Christmas means cold, winter weather. But for a lot of countries in the southern hemisphere, Christmas is in summer, and people spend the day in the sun at the beach!

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So, Christmas can be very different in different parts of the world, and each country has its own traditions. But in most places where Christmas is celebrated, it's a very special time of year. Merry Christmas!

❖ Answer the questions below according to the reading

- People celebrate Christmas in about 160 countries in the world.
- Christmas celebrations are usually in February and March.
- Some Christmas trees are not real trees.
- Many children get their presents in a big hat.
- Everywhere in the world, people eat meat and potatoes for Christmas.
- For Christians, the Christmas story is about the birth of Jesus.
- A nativity scene shows the people and animals from the Christmas story.
- Everybody has snow at Christmas.

2. Read the follow article, then answer the questions below

Celebrations Around the World

People around the world celebrate various occasions and festivals that hold great cultural and religious significance. These celebrations often bring communities together, fostering joy, harmony, and a sense of belonging. Let's explore some of the most important celebrations enjoyed by people globally.

Christmas:

Christmas is a widely celebrated holiday on December 25th each year, commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is celebrated by Christians and non-Christians alike. The festivities include decorating homes with lights and ornaments, exchanging gifts, singing carols, attending church services, and enjoying special meals with family and friends.

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Hanukkah:

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish celebration. It usually falls in late November or December. The holiday commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of a small amount of oil lasting for eight days. Families light the menorah, play games with a dreidel, exchange gifts, and enjoy traditional foods like latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly-filled doughnuts).

Diwali:

Diwali, also called the Festival of Lights, is one of the most significant Hindu festivals. Celebrated in autumn, it symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Diwali typically involves lighting oil lamps and candles, bursting fireworks, exchanging sweets and gifts, decorating homes with colorful rangoli patterns, and enjoying festive meals with family and friends.

Eid al-Fitr:

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting. It is a joyous occasion for Muslims worldwide. The festival begins with special prayers at the mosque, followed by visits to family and friends. Delicious feasts are prepared, and gifts are exchanged. Charity and giving to the less fortunate are also integral parts of Eid al-Fitr.

Chinese New Year:

Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, is celebrated by Chinese communities worldwide. The date varies each year but generally falls between late January and mid-February. The festivities last for 15 days and include dragon and lion dances, fireworks, red lanterns, family gatherings, exchanging red envelopes filled with money, and feasting on traditional dishes.

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Thanksgiving:

Thanksgiving is a holiday primarily celebrated in the United States and Canada. It is a time for people to express gratitude for the blessings in their lives. Families and friends gather for a special meal that often includes turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. Thanksgiving parades, football games, and volunteer work are also common during this time.

Which holiday commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ?

a) Hanukkah

b) Diwali

c) Eid al-Fitr

d) Christmas

What is another name for Hanukkah?

a) Festival of Lights

b) Thanksgiving

c) Lunar New Year

d) Diwali

Which festival symbolizes the victory of light over darkness?

a) Chinese New Year

b) Thanksgiving

c) Eid al-Fitr

d) Diwali

Which holiday marks the end of Ramadan?

a) Christmas

b) Hanukkah

c) Eid al-Fitr

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d) Chinese New Year

When is Chinese New Year usually celebrated?

a) In late November or December

b) In late January or mid-February

c) On December 25th

d) In autumn

Which holiday is primarily celebrated in the United States and Canada?

a) Hanukkah

b) Chinese New Year

c) Thanksgiving

d) Diwali

What is the main purpose of Thanksgiving?

a) Celebrating the victory of light over darkness

b) Commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ

c) Expressing gratitude for blessings

d) Marking the end of Ramadan

Which festival involves lighting oil lamps and candles?

a) Chinese New Year

b) Eid al-Fitr

c) Diwali

d) Christmas

What is a common tradition during Eid al-Fitr?

a) Exchanging gifts

b) Decorating homes with colorful rangoli patterns

c) Lighting fireworks

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d) Attending church services

Which festival includes dragon and lion dances?

a) Thanksgiving

b) Hanukkah

c) Chinese New Year

d) Diwali

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