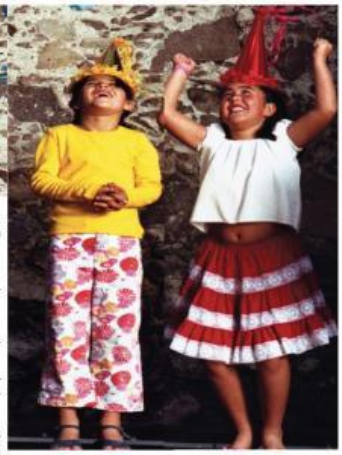
Unit 1 : Name _____ Class _____ No. _____

Birthdays around the World



1 Everybody has a birthday. Many children around the world celebrate their birthdays like children in the United States. They have a birthday cake, gifts, and sometimes a birthday party. Friends and family **gather around** a table with a birthday cake on it. They sing "Happy Birthday to You." Two American sisters wrote this song in 1893, but people still sing this song today! The birthday cake usually has lighted **candles** on it, one candle for each year of the child's life. The birthday child makes a wish and then blows out all the candles. If the child blows out the candles in one **breath**, it is said that the wish will come true. Other countries have different **customs**.

2 In Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, people fly the country's **flag** outside their home to tell everyone that someone in the family is having a birthday. In Denmark, a parent puts gifts around a child's bed when the child is sleeping at night. When the child wakes up in the morning, the gifts will be the first thing the child sees. In Sweden and also in Finland, the birthday child gets breakfast in bed!

3 In some countries, some years are more important than others. In Holland, these are 5, 10, 15, 20, and 21. They call them "crown" years. On a crown birthday, the birthday child or young adult gets a much more important gift. The family also **decorates** the child's chair at the dining table with flowers, paper, and balloons. The special years in Japan are 3, 5, and 7. These are the **lucky** years. On November 15 every year, there is a festival called "7-5-3" when the children and their families go to a religious place. Then the family gives a party for the child and gives the child gifts. In India, because of religious reasons, Hindu children only get to celebrate their birthdays until the age of 16.

4 Birthday cakes around the world come in different sizes and **flavors**. There are even ice cream birthday cakes today. But in China, there is no birthday cake. Friends and family go out to lunch, and to wish the birthday child a long life, they eat noodles!

breath	**customs**	**flag**	**gather around**
candles	**decorate**	**flavors**	**lucky**

1. People around the world have different birthday_____.

2. Children in the U.S. usually have a birthday cake with_____ on it.

3. Friends and family _____ the child and the birthday cake.

4. It is sometimes not easy to blow out the candles in one_____.

5. In Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, people put a _____ outside the house.

6. Birthday cakes can have different_____ like chocolate and vanilla.

7. In Japan, 3, 5, and 7 are _____ years.

8. In Holland, parents_____ a child's chair with flowers.

Looking for main ideas

1. Children in other countries celebrate birthdays____.

a. like children in the U.S. b. with just their friends
c. at different times of the year

2. In some countries, some____ are more important than others.

a. cake b. years c. festival

3. In Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, people____ on a child's birthday.

a. fly a flag b. have breakfast in bed
c. put gifts in the child's bed

LIVEWORKSHEETS