



Lesson 1

Appeal of Traditions!



1. Look and label the pictures with the words in the Word Bank. Then, listen and repeat.

Word Bank

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| a. parade | e. lantern |
| b. livestock | f. fireworks |
| c. crops | g. envelope |
| d. beast | h. spring |



Vocabulary Strategy

Use visual aids to guess meaning.



2. Fill in the blanks with words from the previous exercise. Then, listen and check.

Keeping Traditions Alive

Fireworks are an American tradition on the Fourth of July. On that day in 1776, the thirteen colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. It was a historic moment that eventually led to the USA's independence. That is why this day is known as Independence Day and Americans celebrate the birthday of their country with parades on the streets, floats and extraordinary (a) that light up the sky.

Even though fireworks were invented in China in the 7th century and were used to scare away evil spirits, today they are seen as spectacular displays that are out of this world and make people happy, not only on Independence Day, but also on New Year's Eve, at Christmas, as well as during important ceremonies in many countries worldwide!

The Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival. This old tradition marks the end of winter and the beginning of (b), a time when there is heavy rain and lots of flowers blossom. Originally, the Spring Festival was celebrated to defend their villages from the mythical evil (c) the Nian, who came to eat (d) like cows and horses, as well as fruit, vegetable crops and children. It was believed that putting food in front of their doors at the beginning of every year and wearing red clothes would prevent the Nian from attacking people. Nowadays, several customs are observed during this special celebration.

The Chinese celebrate in style by buying gifts, food, clothing, and decorations. Houses are decorated with red paper cutouts, red (e) to illuminate the village, and scrolls with poems about fortune and happiness. The day before the Chinese New Year, people have a family dinner, visit friends and relatives, give red (f) filled with money and finish the night with firecrackers that make a loud noise when they explode.

Key Expressions

In style: to celebrate with elegance

Vocabulary Strategy

Use context clues to find missing words.

3. Complete the sentences using the past participle form of the verbs in parentheses. Then, check ☒ T (true) or ☐ F (false).

- a. The conflict between the colonies and Great Britain was finished (finish) on July 4th, 1778.
 b. The Chinese New Year is also _____ (know) as the Spring Festival.
 c. The USA's birthday *isn't* _____ (celebrate) with colorful parades and fireworks.
 d. Red envelopes with money *are* _____ (give) to children on the Chinese New Year's Eve.

T	F
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

4. Complete the grammar chart.

Reflect on Grammar		
Passive Voice Use the <i>Passive Voice</i> to emphasize actions or when the doer of the action is not important or unknown. To form <i>Passive Voice</i> sentences, use the auxiliary verb _____ and the _____ form of the main verb.		
Simple Present	Statements Houses are <u>decorated</u> with red paper.	Interrogative How _____ houses _____?
Simple Past	Fireworks _____ invented in China to scare away evil spirits.	Where were fireworks invented ? Why _____ fireworks invented ?
Note: To introduce the doer or performer of the action in <i>Passive Voice</i> sentences use the preposition by : Fireworks were invented by the Chinese in the 7 th Century.		

5. Change the paragraph below from *active* into *Passive Voice*.

Every year, Peruvians celebrate the Festival of the Sun on June 24th. The Spanish conquerors prohibited this Incan Festival in the 16th century. However, in the 1940's the writings of "El Inca", a half-conqueror, half-Incan poet, revived and reconstructed the Festival of the Sun and its traditions. Today, the festival offers colorful exhibitions, live concerts, traditional dances, and activities where actors and singers bring the past alive. This is the second biggest festival in Latin America, after the Rio Carnival.

6. Talk with a partner about traditions.

What traditions are celebrated in your family?

Where are these traditions celebrated?

Project Stage 1

- In pairs, search for information about your family's, neighborhood's and hometown's memories of past remarkable events. E.g. *Christmas Eve/ New Year's Eve*.
- Look at your family's photo albums to list traditions and activities celebrated and the people and places involved in them. E.g. *The Christmas tree is decorated with lights*.