



READING COMPREHENSION WORKSHEET

NAME: _____ GRADE: _____ DATE: _____

EXPECTED LEARNINGS: Students will be able to extract general ideas and specific information about the most important festivities in Chile.

ACTIVITY: Read short texts about the most important festivities in Chile comprehensively, by answering multiple choice questions, extracting general and specific information about the text read, answering vocabulary and use of language questions.

Instructions:

- Read the extracts twice
- Underline the vocabulary you don't know. Then, write their meanings in the space given.
- Answer the questions about the text and re read the extracts to find specific information if needed
- Ask your teacher any questions if necessary, raising your hand, opening microphones or chat.

Indigenous New Year

The Mapuche New Year is one of the most important dates in the indigenous calendar in Chile. "We Tripantu" means the "return of the sun" and is celebrated on June 23rd, the winter solstice and shortest day of the year in the Southern Hemisphere. The Mapuche people wait for the rising of the new sun, which they believe brings a renewal of life and rebirth at the start of a New Year. **They perform rituals and invoke the spirits of their ancestors with ancient dance and song.**

**Tapati**

Tapati is a celebration of ancient culture and tradition on Easter Island (Rapa Nui), held in February. **The local people paint their bodies with mythical symbols and images and gather to recount the legends of their ancestors.** There are also many competitions such as swimming and canoeing which test physical skill, the most daring of which is Haka Pei, where contestants toboggan down the steep mountain on banana tree trunks.

**Grape Harvest Festival**

Chilean wine is world-famous, and so the Grape Harvest Festival, or "Vendimias," is an important tradition. The festivals take place during the final week of March through May when the grapes are ripe after summer. **Rural towns across central Chile celebrate the festival with a religious ceremony to bless the first batch of grapes.** A Grape Queen is then chosen, who is weighed against a bottle of wine, and teams of locals engage in a grape-stomping competition to see who can pulp the most juice out of 20 kg of fruit in 10 minutes, and a fair amount of wine is also consumed to celebrate Chile's bountiful production.



La Tirana

La Tirana is a widely celebrated festival, attracting many tourists and pilgrims from across the country. It takes place in the northern town of La Tirana in Tarapacá Region on June 16. **The festival is a mix of the Catholic and indigenous religions in paying tribute to the Virgen del Carmen through carnivals and dancing.** The dancers wear elaborate costumes and masks, with the lead dancer dressed in the fiercest costume to lead the *diablada*, the “dance of the devils.” Locals sell crafts and food in the streets and many masses are held in the surrounding churches during the festival.



Fiestas Patrias

Without a doubt Chile’s most important festival, Fiestas Patrias is the National Holiday of Chile, celebrated on Sep. 18 and 19. **It is a commemoration of the First Government Assembly which marked Chilean Independence on Sep. 18, 1810.** The festivities include dancing the Cueca, the national dance of Chile, which is done in pairs with handkerchiefs. People adorn their houses with the national flag and everyone takes to the streets and parks to share in games, food, and drink, including the famous “*Terremoto*,” usually a mix of pipeño wine, pineapple ice cream, and grenadine.



I. READING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION: read the extracts about some of the important festivities. Then read the statements below and decide if they are True or False. Justify the false ones.

1. _____ La Tirana festival has pagan origins.
2. _____ Tapati celebration in Easter Island is held on February every year.
3. _____ “We tripantu” means “the return of winter”
4. _____ “Terremoto is a typical drink Chilean people have in Fiestas Patrias”
5. _____ “Diablada” is danced in Tapati Festival in Easter Island.
6. _____ As part of the Grape Harvest festival, people choose a queen.
7. _____ During the Indigenous New Year, Mapuche people invoke pagan spirits.

II. VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT: read the texts again and find the corresponding term for each of the synonyms in the following list.

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Set, established: _____ | 5. Ferocious: _____ |
| 2. Plentiful: _____ | 6. Provincial: _____ |
| 3. Ascendant: _____ | 7. Myth, tradition: _____ |
| 4. Fictitious: _____ | 8. Crowds: _____ |

III. USE OF LANGUAGE: check the location of the following referential words, in each text above. Then choose the correct alternative for the word they refer to.

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. their (text 1, line 7): | A. Mapuche people’s | B. Spirits’ | C. Rituals’ | D. Song’s |
| 2. who (text 3, line 6): | A. the local people | B. the queen | C. towns | D. grapes |
| 3. which (text 2, line 5): | A. bodies | B. ancestors | C. competitions | D. trunks |
| 4. it (text 4, line 2): | A. country | B. festival | C. town | D. dance |
| 5. which (text 5, line 5): | A. Cueca | B. terremoto | C. festival | D. grenadine |

III. READING COMPREHENSION: Read the extracts above and choose the correct alternative for each statement.

1. Which is the intention of the writer by writing these previous extracts?
 - A. To inform
 - B. To persuade
 - C. To give instructions
 - D. To warn

2. Which of the following titles can be suitable and common for all of these extracts?
 - A. "Chile: a country full of tradition"
 - B. "The top five festivities in Chile"
 - C. "How to celebrate in Chile?"
 - D. "Religion in Chilean festivities"

3. About "La Tirana" festival, is correct to say that:
 - A. Its origins come from pagan beliefs
 - B. Costumes worn by people have the purpose to threaten enemies
 - C. It incorporates Catholic and indigenous religions.
 - D. Tourists and pilgrims sell crafts and food.

4. Which is the other name the grape harvest Festival receives?
 - A. We Tripantu
 - B. "El 18"
 - C. Diabladas
 - D. Vendimias

5. This festivity has its origins in an historical fact, when politicians of the period met in a called "assembly". This definition corresponds to:
 - A. Tapati
 - B. Fiestas Patrias
 - C. Mapuche New Year
 - D. La Tirana

6. About "Grape Harvest Festival", is correct to say that:
 - A. Its objective is to bless the first batch of grapes
 - B. They choose a king during this celebration
 - C. its contest consists of pulping the most juice out of 10 kg of fruit in 20 minutes.
 - D. This festivity takes place in many urban and big cities around our country.



"Hard work conquers everything."