Spotlight 9	Reading Task 9101

Read the texts. Match the titles to the descriptions of unusual festivals.

One title is extra.

1. BABY JUMPING
2. THE MOST COLOURFUL EVENT
3. THE MESSY FESTIVAL
4. THE LEGO COMPETITION
5. FEATHERS FLY HIGH
6. DELICIOUS FOOD

A. If you are a fan of warm fried rings of dough that we lovingly call donuts, join in celebration of the National Donut Day! This American "holiday" is celebrated on the first Friday of June; it is a tradition that dates all the way back to 1917, when Salvation Army volunteers were sent to take care of the US soldiers fighting in World War One. Seeing how homesick and miserable the soldiers were, the women decided to do something special. Sure enough, the hot tempting smell of fresh donuts worked like a charm in lifting their spirits! Since then, it has become a US tradition. What's even better is that many stores have joined in this fun tradition by handing out free donuts to customers during the entire day.

B. On Saturday April 6th, thousands of adults and children all over the world got together in their respective cities with one purpose in mind to have a good old-fashioned pillow fight with total strangers! Now in its sixth year, the hour-long event is the invention of an organization called Urban Playground. The organizers think that the pillow fights are a harmless way for people to free from stress and have some fun. The rules? No hitting anyone with a camera or anyone without a pillow! This year, over 100 cities from Washington D.C. (USA) to London (England), and even Istanbul (Turkey) and Sao Paolo (Brazil), participated in this fun celebration. Judging from the videos, they were all a great success!

C. Indians love festivals! The most popular is Holi, the festival of colour, held annually at the beginning of spring. As with all Hindu festivals, this one also has a number of different folk tales associated with it. The majority center around the triumph of good over evil. What's so great about this day? There are some fun processions, folksong and dance performances, but the best part is the ritual of splashing friends and even total strangers, young and old, with dry colours, water guns and using even buckets of coloured water. At about midday, the friendly chaos comes to an end and people living close to oceans or rivers, usually take a dip in the water to clean themselves, before going home to a homemade feast and a well-deserved siesta.

D. Every July, the people of Spain celebrate the Catholic Festival of Corpus Christi with parades, mystery plays and various other fun celebrations. However, the town of Castrillo de Murcia adds an event called "El Colacho". While the origins of the tradition which dates back to 1620 are unknown, the event is held to keep away evil spirits. The "El Colacho", a man dressed in a bright yellow and red outfit, represents the devil who runs from the entrance of a church and jumps over mattresses upon which lie all the babies who have been born during the year. Besides having that magical ability of sending away evil spirits, the "El Colacho" also has to be a very good jumper! No wonder, it is sometimes called the world's most dangerous festival event.

E. The Boryeong Mud Festival started as fun beach event in 1998. Today, it attracts over 1.5 million visitors who come to Boryeong, South Korea, every July, for the nine-day event that promises "well-being through mud". If you like the idea of mud-slides, mud massages, mud football etc., this is the festival you will definitely not want to miss! The mud is considered rich in minerals and is used to manufacture cosmetics. In fact, the event was created to promote Boryeong mud cosmetics, but has become a popular festival. Nowhere else can you throw on a swimsuit, cover yourself in five different shades of mud and parade the streets with 50,000 of your closest friends. Festival-goers have their pick of activities like the Mr. Mud contest, mud wrestling and mud races.

A	B	C	D	E

LIVEWORKSHEETS