Our Traditions

Reading Activity

Reading

2 Scan the article. How many of the traditions on your list are mentioned?

UAE culture is full of fascinating stories, crafts and traditions. Hospitality is a very important tradition in Emirati culture. The way Emiratis greet each other stems from the religious and cultural make-up of the Gulf region. Long, genuinely warm greetings with handshakes, embraces and generous praise can be expected for male-to-male and female-to-female greetings.

Majlis is an Arabic word for a meeting place. The traditional Majlis was a tented meeting place where businessmen used to meet regularly.

The UAE also has many traditional games, although some of them are not played any more. An example is Al Boom, which was a popular game where children used to build wooden toy boats and then compete against each other in the sea. They used to play this game very often.

On special occasions, such as Eid and for bridal showers, henna is used to decorate women's hands, feet and hair. During Eid holidays, families gather in their new clothes, usually starting with a visit to the grandparents' house. Older family members give the children traditional Eid money – known as Eidiya in Arabic.

3 Read the article again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1. Emirati greetings come from the different cultures that live in the UAE. ____
2. Emirati greetings are very quick with little talking. ____
3. The Majlis was a tent where business meetings took place. ____
4. To play Al Boom, children have to know how to sail large fishing boats. ____
5. Emirati women use henna when celebrating special occasions. ____
6. At Eid, Emiratis give Eidiya money to poor families as a donation. ____

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