

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# SPRING FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD



## Unit 12 - Reading 2

Listen and read again. Then complete the following task.

**Spring Festivals Around The World**

**SPRING FESTIVALS ROUND THE WORLD**

We spoke to school children from two very different countries.  
We asked: *What will you do to celebrate spring this year? Where will you go? What will you eat? and What does the festival mean to you?*

**Cambridgeshire, UK**  
This spring we'll celebrate the Ely Eel Festival. It happens every year in April for three days. It's a new festival we love it. It celebrates the city because people say our city takes its name from the eel – a long, slippery fish.

On the first day, we'll walk in the parade, which starts near the cathedral. After that, we'll watch the eel-throwing competition in the market square. They won't be real eels! People make them with socks and put rice inside. After the competition, there'll be music and dancing and the town criers will ring their bells.

Eels are symbols of good luck so some people **get married** on that day.

**Chiang Mai, Thailand**  
In Thailand, spring is the hottest time of the year. We've got an ancient celebration called Songkran in April. People celebrate all over the country. This year, like every year at Songkran, people will have **water fights** in the streets. Children **have got a day off** school, so I'll spend the day **spraying** water over all my friends in the neighbourhood. **Grown-ups** do different things at Songkran. This year my mum will visit my granny. She'll wash her hands with special water and clean her house.

There are lots of delicious things to eat at Songkran. My favourite is **sticky rice** with mango. It's a dessert made with **coconut milk**.

Songkran means change and the festival also celebrates Thai New Year. We wash away the old year and get ready for the new.

Watch on YouTube

### 1. Read and fill in the blanks with the given words

*sticky rice, Thailand, parade, good luck, children, eel-throwing*

1. In Chiang Mai, ..... is celebrated with water fights.
2. The Ely Eel Festival has a fun activity called .....
3. Eels are considered a symbol of ..... in Cambridgeshire.
4. During Songkran, many people enjoy eating ..... with mango.
5. In the Ely Eel Festival, there is a ..... near the cathedral.
6. In Thailand, ..... get a day off school to enjoy Songkran.

### 2. TRUE or FALSE

1. People in Cambridgeshire throw real eels during the festival.
2. Songkran is celebrated with water fights in Thailand.
3. Eels are considered a symbol of bad luck in the Ely Eel Festival.
4. Children get a day off from school during Songkran in Thailand.