Lucy is visiting Camille for some days. They are reading an interesting article. Read and then, do the activity.

COMING OF AGE

KOREAN STYLE

DO YOU KNOW WHY THE THIRD MONDAY OF MAY IS SO SPECIAL IN KOREA? It is because you can only celebrate this day once in your life. It is Korea's coming-of-age day: something traditionally celebrated by both young men and women in the same year that they turn twenty years old. After this serious and special day, these ex-teenagers will be adult members of society. In the ceremony, they become aware of the importance of being an adult and leading the future of Korea.

SO, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO IF YOU WANT TO TAKE PART IN THIS FESTIVAL? You have to wear traditional Korean clothes, known as hanbok. These are colourful and beautiful.The young people sit in special seats in large groups - it's so impressive that it's turned into a real tourist attraction in Korea, white some foreign students actually take part in the celebration themselves. During the ceremony, the children bow to their parents out of respect. In turn, the parents also bow to their children to recognise their children's pledge to be responsible adults. Sadly, many of these customs are now seen as quite old-fashioned and are often not passed on to the next generation.

IS THERE A FUN PART? For sure! You can take lots of great snaps and, of course, there are the gifts you receive on your special day. For girls, the most popular presents these days include jewellery, bags, perfume or cosmetics, while for boys, watches, electric shavers or aftershave are all well-liked. However, some girls still prefer the three traditional presents - perfume, flowers and a kiss. The perfume signifies 'Please remember me', the flowers represent happiness and beauty, and the kiss, love.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE? Well, there are fears that the traditional coming-of-age day festival is being lost in Korea. Many young people now decide to organise more modern versions of the ceremony instead. To some young Koreans, twenty might seem a little old to become an adult! That's a shame because it's a totally unique festival.

FA C T ! *Coming-of-age celebrations don't exist in many countries. In most of the Western world you are considered an adult on your 18th birthday.*

A. Read the article again and choose the correct options.

1. Coming-of-age day in Korea has / doesn't have a serious side.
2. Foreign people can only watch / watch and take part in the ceremony.
3. At one point in the ceremony, parents anc children do similar / different actions.
4. The festival is both serious and fun / basically serious.
5. These days, young people can / can't choose between modern and traditional gifts.
6. The traditional festival is losing popularity / as popular as ever.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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