



Oxford Read and Discover

Festivals Around the World

Richard Northcott

Read and discover all about festivals around the world ...

- When is the festival of Diwali?
- What do people do at Halloween?

Read and discover more about the world! This series of non-fiction readers provides interesting and educational content, with activities and project work.

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Audio CD Pack available

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Level 1
300 headwords



Level 3
600 headwords



Level 5
900 headwords



Level 2
450 headwords



Level 4
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Level 6
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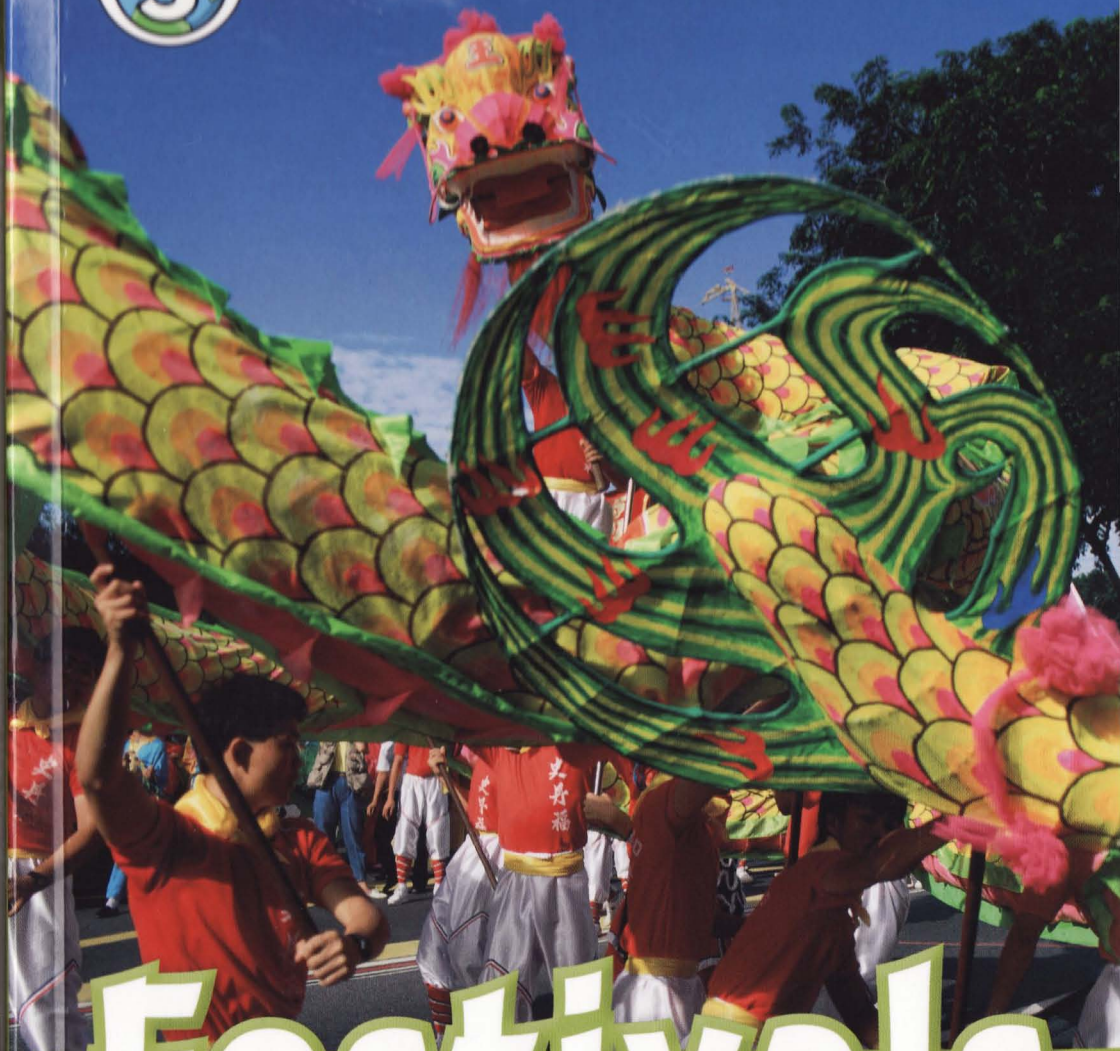
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Introduction

This is New Year in China. New Year is a big festival for Chinese people, in China and all around the world. People walk in the streets, watch dancers, and have fun.

What festivals are there in your country?
When are these festivals?
What do people do on these days?



Now read and discover more about festivals around the world!

1

In the Streets



The Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Come to the carnival! The carnival in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil is one of the biggest festivals in the world. It's always in February or March. There's a parade with big floats. There's music in the streets. People wear colorful costumes. They dance and have fun.



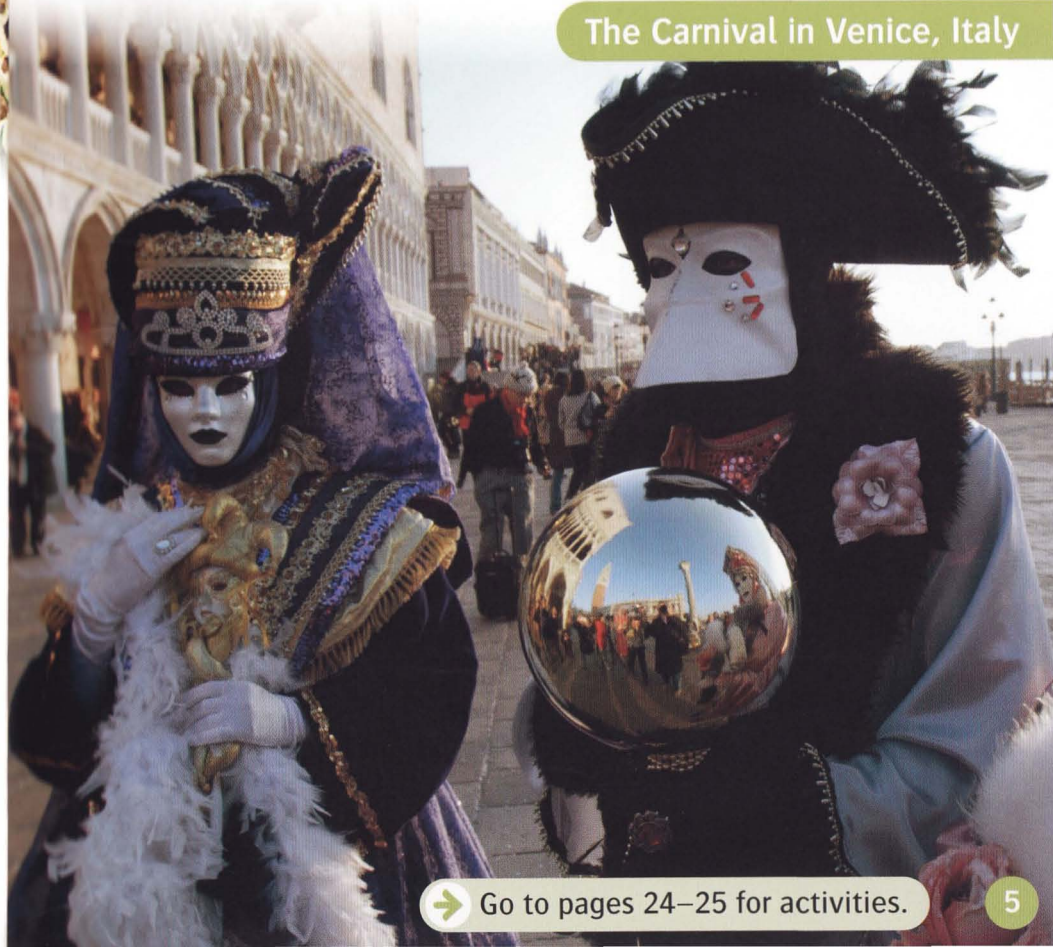
The carnival in Rio de Janeiro is all day and all night. Many people don't go to bed that night!



On the same day, there's a carnival in Venice in Italy. At this time of year, it's summer in Brazil, but it's winter in Italy. The weather in Italy is colder than in Brazil.

At the Venice carnival, some people wear long dresses or cloaks. They want to have fun, but they don't want to be cold. The day after the carnival, Christians start the time of Lent.

The Carnival in Venice, Italy



→ Go to pages 24–25 for activities.

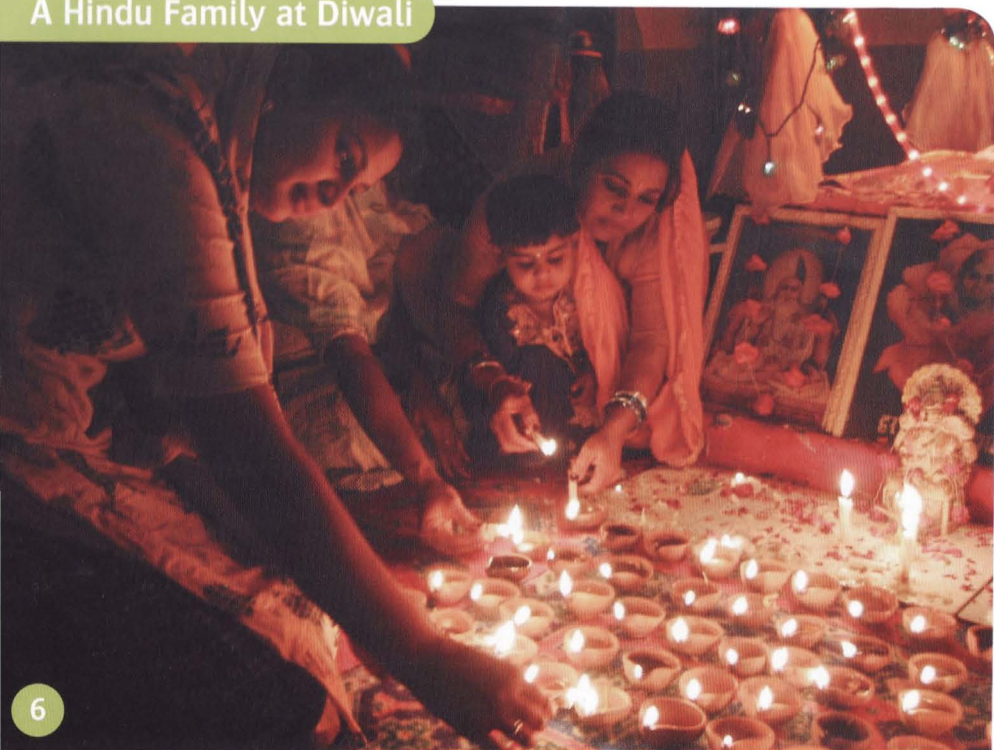
2

Lights

For many festivals, people decorate their homes. In India, people put lots of pretty lamps in their homes for the festival of Diwali. They look at the lamps and think about their family and other people in the world.

Diwali is usually in October or November. It's a very big festival for Hindu people in India, and for Hindus all around the world.

A Hindu Family at Diwali



Lighting Candles at Hanukkah

At the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, people light candles on eight nights. One night, they light one candle. The next night they light two candles. On the last night of Hanukkah, they light all the candles.

Hanukkah is usually in December. Children have presents. Many families eat pancakes made with potatoes. They sometimes eat donuts, too.

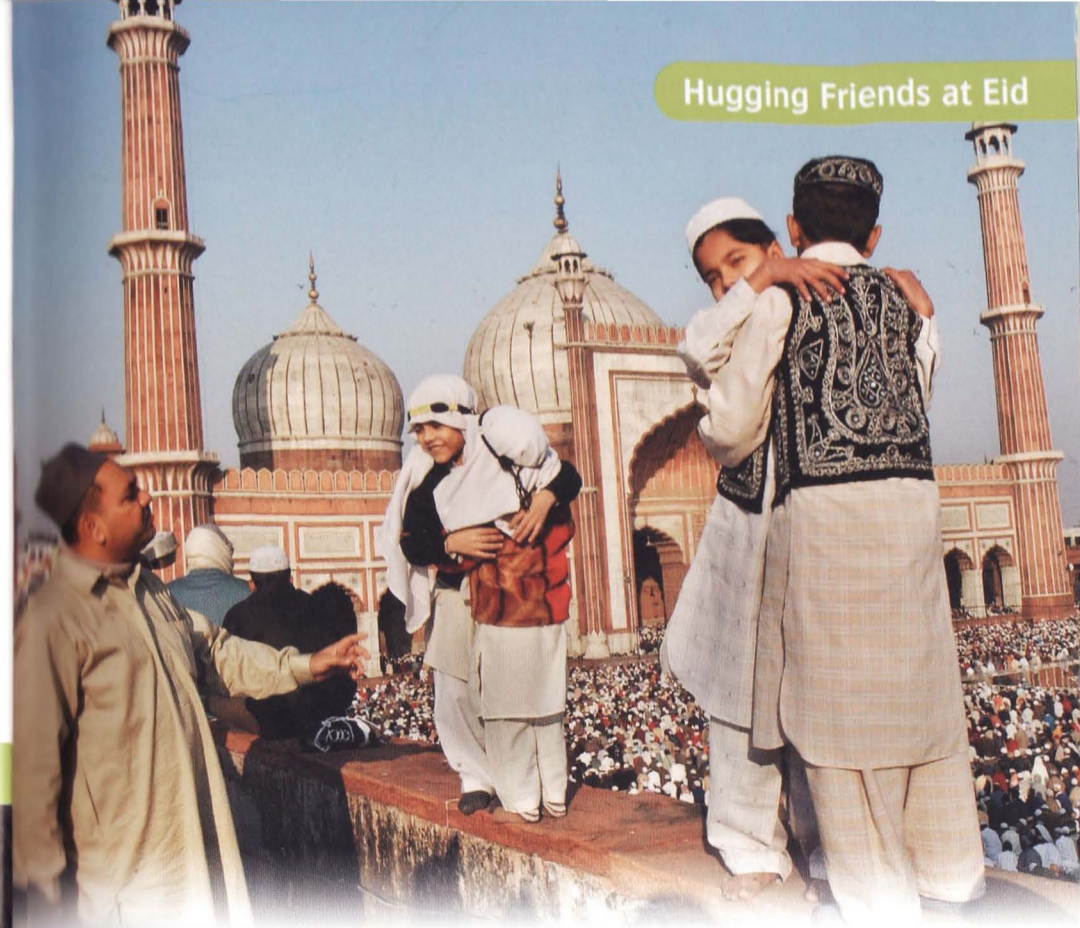
3

Families and Friends

Eid is the Arabic word for 'festival'. Eid is a big Muslim festival. At Eid, people give presents to children and friends. Eid presents are usually money, or things like toys, candy, and new clothes.

At Eid, Muslims think about other people in the world. They give food and money to hungry people and sick people.

Children with Presents at Eid



Hugging Friends at Eid

People wear new clothes at Eid. In the morning, they get up, wash, and put on their new clothes. They eat dates and cookies for breakfast. Then they go to pray at the mosque.

Lots of people hug their friends. Later, they eat with their family. They also visit their grandparents, and say, 'Happy Eid!'

4

Three Kings

In the story of Jesus Christ, three good people visited Jesus when he was a baby. They gave him presents. Later, Christians called these people the Three Kings.

In January, Christians have a festival called Twelfth Night. It's called Twelfth Night because it's 12 nights after Christmas. At this time, Christians think about the Three Kings who visited Jesus with their presents. In some countries, people eat a big cake.

Making Cakes for Twelfth Night



A Parade for Twelfth Night, Spain

Twelfth Night is a big festival in Spain. There are lots of parades, with people in costumes. People throw candy to children in the streets.



On Twelfth Night, Spanish children put their shoes under the Christmas tree. In the morning, they find presents in their shoes.





Cherry Blossom, Japan

Spring is a very pretty season. Maybe it's the prettiest season of all. It's usually sunny and there are lots of flowers.

In Japan, people love cherry blossom. These pink flowers open in spring, between January and April. People have picnics under the cherry trees. They sit and eat, and they look at the cherry blossom.



A Homowo Parade, Ghana

In Ghana, the rainy season starts in May. This is a good time for farmers, so they have a big festival called Homowo. There are parades in the streets, with music and dancing.

Vila Franca do Lima is in Portugal. In May, there's a festival here, with lots of flowers. Girls carry flowers on their head. The flowers are heavy.



At a Flower Festival, Portugal

6

Thank You

Fall is a season of festivals all around the world. It's the season of the harvest. Farmers cut the crops and pick the fruit. After the harvest, people want to say thank you for the good things in the world.

In South Korea there's a big festival called Chuseok in September or October. Families eat traditional food like rice cakes. Sometimes people also dance.

Dancing at Chuseok, South Korea



A Thanksgiving Dinner, USA

In the USA, the festival of Thanksgiving is in November. In Canada, it's in October. People have dinner with their family. They eat turkey and pumpkin pie.

In Europe, there are lots of festivals after the harvest. In Poland, girls wear crowns made of flowers. They dance and sing songs. In Italy, people wear traditional costumes and they dance with wreaths. The wreaths are made of wheat.

Dancing with Wreaths, Italy



➔ Go to pages 34–35 for activities.

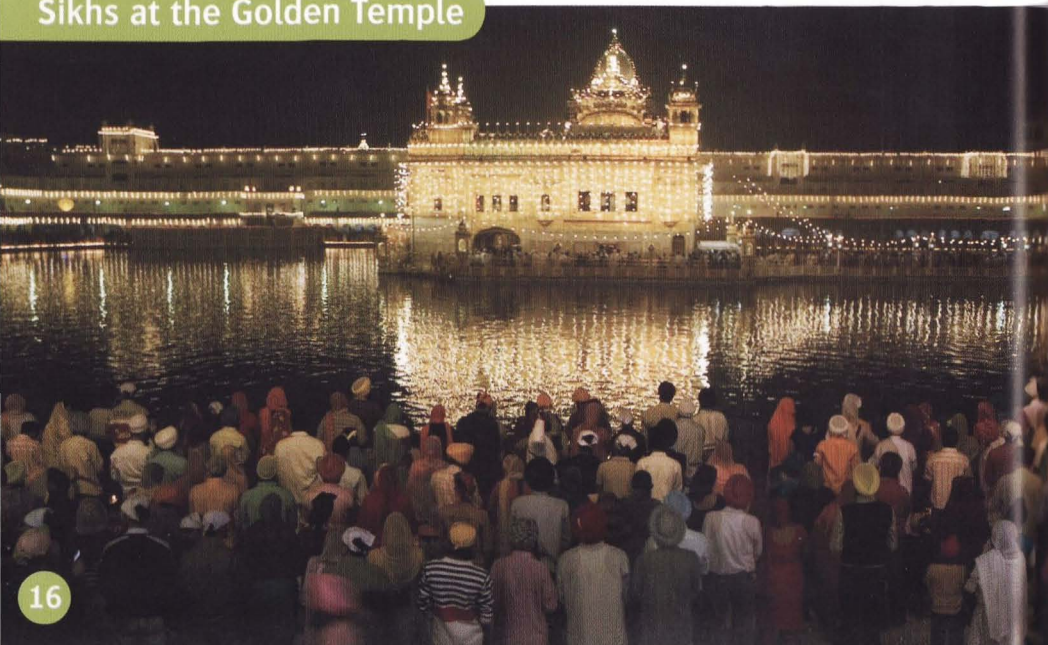
7

Birthdays

Christmas is the birthday of Jesus Christ and it's a big festival for Christians. Many people have a Christmas tree in their homes, and there are pretty decorations in the streets.

All around the world, Sikhs have a festival for Guru Nanak's birthday in November. Guru Nanak was a great teacher. Some Sikhs go to the Golden Temple in India. On Guru Nanak's birthday there are thousands of lamps at this temple.

Sikhs at the Golden Temple



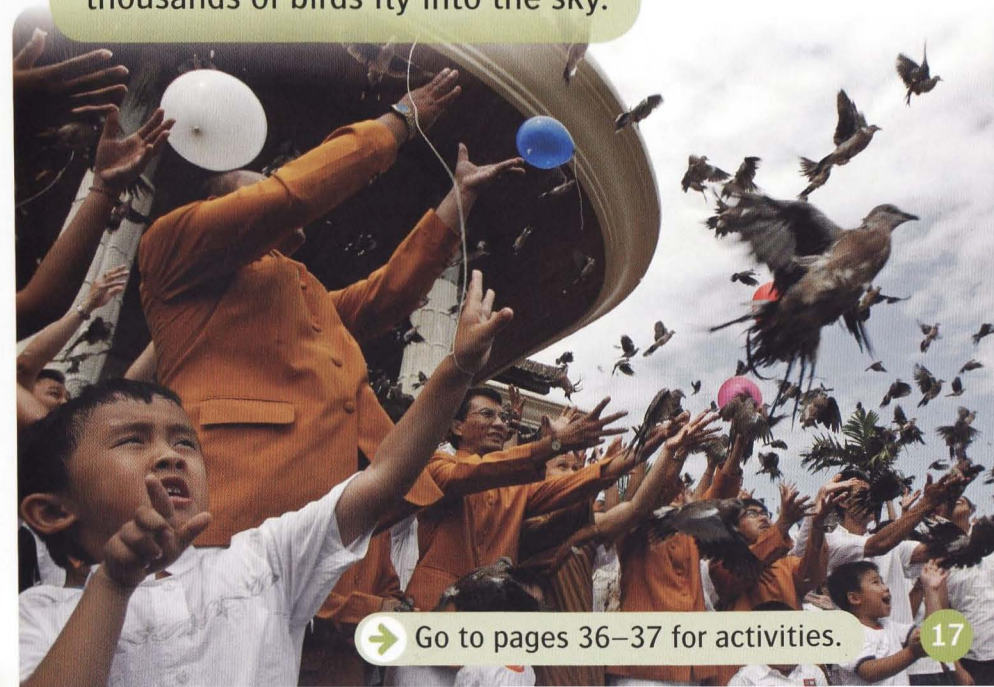
Vesak Day is sometimes called Buddha's Birthday. On this day, Buddhists think about Gotama Buddha – he was a great teacher in India. They decorate statues of Gotama Buddha. Vesak Day is usually in May.



A Statue of Buddha



On Vesak Day in Indonesia, thousands of birds fly into the sky.



→ Go to pages 36–37 for activities.

8

Midsummer



A Midsummer Bonfire, Finland

In June, it's summer in Europe. It's usually warm. The nights are short and the days are long. The longest day in the year is June 21st. It's called Midsummer. At this time, there are many festivals in Europe. People make big bonfires.



In Finland and other countries near the Arctic, it doesn't get dark at Midsummer. There's no night.



In Russia at Midsummer, people sing and dance all night. Girls pick flowers and make pretty crowns. They throw the crowns into a lake or a river.

Midsummer is one of the biggest festivals in Sweden. People decorate their homes with leaves. They make a big pole with flowers and leaves. They dance around the pole and sing songs. They wear traditional Swedish costumes. Girls make pretty crowns with flowers.



Midsummer, Sweden

Go to pages 38–39 for activities.

9

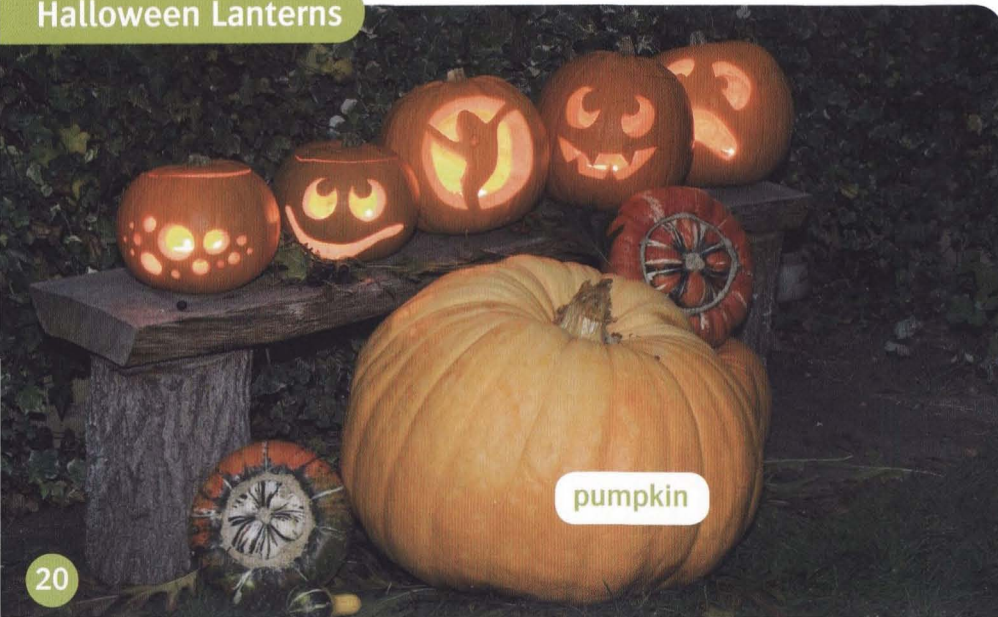
Halloween

October 31st is Halloween. Children wear costumes. In the evening, they knock on doors and people give them candy.

At Halloween, some people buy a pumpkin. They cut holes in the pumpkin, to make eyes, a nose, and a mouth. They put a candle in the pumpkin, to make a lantern – a lantern and a scary face!

Stores sell Halloween toys, like skeletons and spiders. People aren't really scared at Halloween. It's fun!

Halloween Lanterns



The day after Halloween is a Christian festival called All Saints Day. This is a very big festival in Mexico. People think about their families, and visit the cemetery. It's not a sad festival. People have fun. Children have candy and they play with their brothers and sisters.



In Guatemala on All Saints Day, people fly really big kites.

10 New Year



New Year, Thailand

All around the world there are big festivals for New Year. People in different countries do different things.

In Spain and Portugal, people eat 12 grapes at midnight on December 31st.

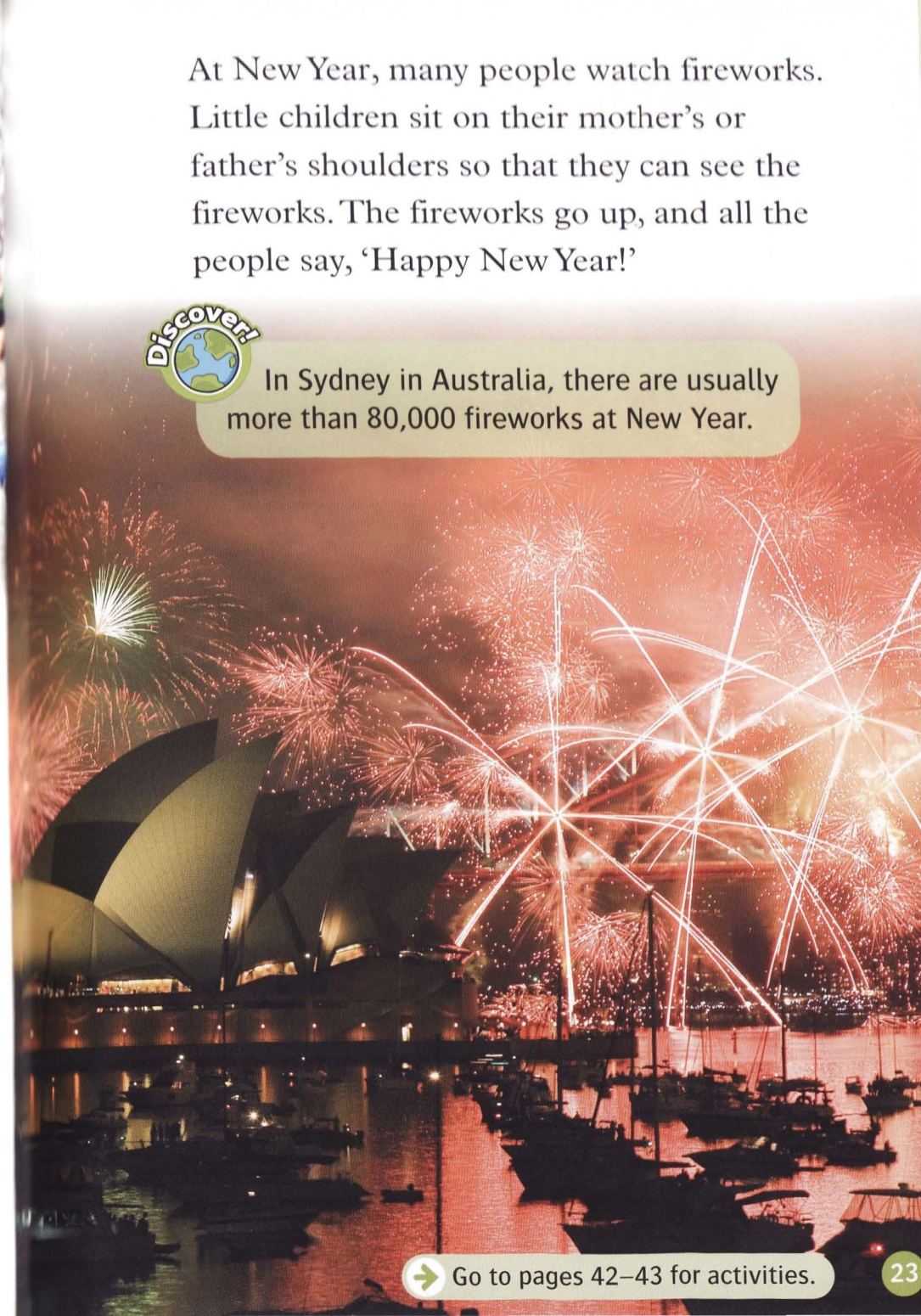
In Japan, people like laughing at midnight. They say, 'Start the year with a laugh, then all the year is happy.'

In Thailand, people throw water in the streets. They have water all over them, but it's not a problem. The weather in Thailand is always hot at New Year.

At New Year, many people watch fireworks. Little children sit on their mother's or father's shoulders so that they can see the fireworks. The fireworks go up, and all the people say, 'Happy New Year!'



In Sydney in Australia, there are usually more than 80,000 fireworks at New Year.



1 In the Streets

← Read pages 4–5.

1 Write the words.

costumes cloak dress
float parade street



1 parade



2 _____



3 _____



4 _____



5 _____



6 _____

2 Write true or false.

- Rio de Janeiro is in Italy. false
- The carnival in Rio de Janeiro is in January. _____
- There's a parade at the carnival in Rio de Janeiro. _____
- There's a carnival in Venice every year. _____
- The weather is always hot at the Venice carnival. _____
- Some people at the Venice carnival wear cloaks. _____

3 Circle the correct words.

- The carnival in Rio de Janeiro is very small / **big**.
- You can see **people** / streets in colorful costumes.
- Many **parades** / people don't go to bed that night.
- The carnival in Venice is in **summer** / winter.
- Some people wear **cloaks** / floats or long dresses.
- They want to have fun / cold.

4 Match.

- Where is Rio de Janeiro?
- When is the carnival in Rio de Janeiro?
- Is there music at the Rio de Janeiro carnival?
- Where is Venice?
- Is the carnival in Venice in summer?
- How is the weather at the Venice carnival?

It's in February or March.
No, it's in winter.
It's in Brazil.
It's in Italy.
It's colder than in Brazil.
Yes, there is.

5 Answer the questions.

- In your country, how is the weather in February?

- Do you have a carnival in your country? What do you do?

2 Lights

← Read pages 6–7.

1 Match.

- 1 Diwali is
- 2 At Diwali, people put
- 3 At Diwali, people think
- 4 Hanukkah
- 5 Hanukkah is
- 6 At Hanukkah, people

lamps in their homes.
a Jewish festival.
about their family and
other people.
sometimes in October.
eat pancakes.
is usually in December.

2 Complete the sentences.

donuts festival big candles November presents

- 1 Diwali is a big festival in India.
- 2 It's usually in October or _____.
- 3 Diwali is a _____ festival for Hindu people.
- 4 At Hanukkah, people light _____.
- 5 Children have _____ at Hanukkah.
- 6 People sometimes eat _____ at Hanukkah.

3 Complete the diagram.

Brazil carnival Italy Diwali February
India October Hanukkah December

Festivals	Countries	Months
carnival		

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 What do Hindus do at Diwali?
They put lamps in their homes.
- 2 When is Diwali?

- 3 What do many people eat at Hanukkah?

- 4 When is Hanukkah?

- 5 Do you have a festival with lamps or candles in your country? Which festival? What do you do? What do you eat?

3 Families and Friends

← Read pages 8–9.

1 Complete the sentences.

clothes festival money Muslim toys presents

- 1 Eid is a _____ festival.
- 2 Muslims give _____ to children at Eid.
- 3 They give them money, or things like _____.
- 4 They give food and _____ to hungry people and sick people.
- 5 People wear new _____ at Eid.
- 6 Eid is the Arabic word for '_____'.

2 What do people do at Eid? Write ✓ or X.

People get up and wash.

They sleep all day.

They eat dates and cookies for breakfast.

They watch a big parade.

They wear old clothes.

They visit their grandparents.

They say, 'Happy Eid!'

3 Order the words.

1 is / festival. / big / Eid / a

Eid is a big festival.

2 presents / People / friends. / their / give / to

3 think / about / people. / other / They

4 People / Eid. / at / eat / dates

5 go / to / They / mosque. / the

6 hug / their / They / friends.

4 Answer the questions.

1 Do you have Eid in your country?

2 Do you have a festival with presents in your country? Which festival?

3 What presents do you give at this festival?

4 Three Kings

← Read pages 10–11.

1 Write the words.

baby candy tree king present shoe



1 _____



2 _____



3 _____



4 _____



5 _____



6 _____

2 Match.

- 1 Twelfth Night is
- 2 It's 12 nights after
- 3 Three good people gave presents to
- 4 Some people eat a cake
- 5 Twelfth Night is a big festival
- 6 Spanish children find

Christmas.
on Twelfth Night.
presents in shoes.
in January.
in Spain.
Jesus.

3 Circle the correct words.

- 1 Twelfth Night is a **Christian** / **Muslim** festival.
- 2 It's 12 nights after **Hanukkah** / **Christmas**.
- 3 It's a big festival in **India** / **Spain**.
- 4 In Spain, there are lots of **parades** / **streets** on Twelfth Night.
- 5 The people in the parades wear **candy** / **costumes**.
- 6 At night, children put their **socks** / **shoes** under the Christmas tree.

4 Write *Twelfth Night* or *Eid*.

- 1 Eid is a Muslim festival.
- 2 _____ is a Christian festival.
- 3 Good people visited Jesus on _____.
- 4 On _____, children put their shoes under the Christmas tree.
- 5 At _____, people go to the mosque.
- 6 On _____, there are big parades in Spain.

5 Circle the odd one out.

- 1 costumes shoes **king**
- 2 cake tree candy
- 3 present night morning
- 4 twelve streets three

5 Spring

← Read pages 12–13.

1 Complete the sentences.

flowers picnics cherry season spring sunny

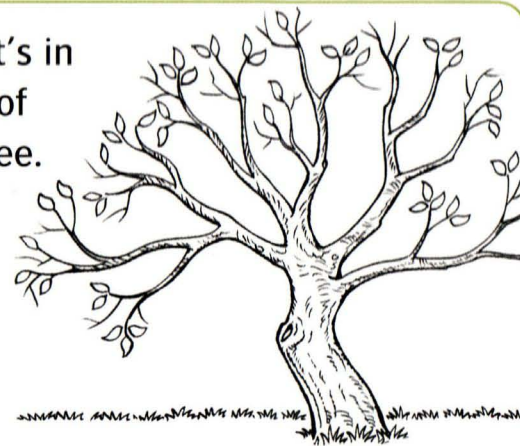
- 1 Spring is a very pretty _____.
- 2 It's usually _____.
- 3 There are lots of _____.
- 4 In Japan, people love _____ blossom.
- 5 These flowers open in _____.
- 6 People have _____ and they look at the cherry blossom.

2 Write *true* or *false*.

- 1 In Japan, people love cherry blossom. _____
- 2 Cherry trees have yellow flowers. _____
- 3 The flowers open in August. _____
- 4 Vila Franca do Lima is in Spain. _____
- 5 There's a festival here in May. _____
- 6 Homowo is a festival in Ghana. _____

3 Read, draw, and color.

This is a cherry tree. It's in a park. There are lots of pink flowers on the tree. Two girls are sitting under the tree. They are wearing yellow dresses.



4 Answer the questions.

- 1 In your country, how is the weather in May?

- 2 What is the prettiest season in your country?

- 3 Do you have a festival in spring in your country?
Which festival? What do you do?

6 Thank You

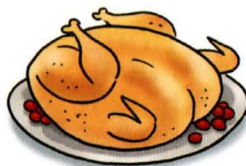
← Read pages 14–15.

1 Write the words.

crown harvest pumpkin pie turkey wheat wreath



1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____



4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

2 Circle the odd one out.

- 1 Poland South Korea USA November Italy
- 2 fall wheat winter spring summer
- 3 fruit pumpkin family turkey cake
- 4 Chuseok November September October August
- 5 dance eat sing wear girl

3 Match.

- 1 People eat turkey and pumpkin pie.
- 2 People eat rice cakes.
- 3 People dance with wreaths.
- 4 Girls wear crowns of flowers.

Italy
South Korea
Poland
USA

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 When do people pick the fruit?

- 2 Who cuts the crops?

- 3 Which country has a festival called Chuseok?

- 4 When is Chuseok?

- 5 What do people do at Chuseok?

- 6 Which countries have a festival called Thanksgiving?

- 7 When is Thanksgiving in the USA?

7 Birthdays

← Read pages 16–17.

birds sometimes
tree birthday
statues teacher

1 Complete the sentences.

- 1 Christmas is the _____ of Jesus Christ.
- 2 At Christmas many people have a Christmas _____ in their homes.
- 3 Guru Nanak was a great _____.
- 4 Vesak Day is _____ called Buddha's Birthday.
- 5 On Vesak Day, Buddhists decorate _____ of Gotama Buddha.
- 6 Thousands of _____ fly into the sky on Vesak Day.

2 Match. Then write complete sentences.

Guru Nanak's birthday
Vesak Day
Christmas
Eid

Buddhist
Muslim
Sikh
Christian

- 1 Guru Nanak's birthday is a Sikh festival.
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

3 Order the words.

- 1 a / Guru / Nanak / great / teacher. / was

- 2 His / in / is / birthday / November.

- 3 Golden / Temple. / to / the / Some / people / go

- 4 is / temple / India. / This / in

- 5 lamps / temple. / There / are / the / at / lots / of

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 In your country, do you have festivals for the birthdays of great people? Which people?

- 2 When is your birthday? What do you do?

8 Midsummer

← Read pages 18–19.

1 Write the words.

bonfire lake flowers leaves pole river



1 _____



2 _____



3 _____



4 _____



5 _____



6 _____

2 Match.

- 1 The days are long
- 2 The longest day is called
- 3 This is a big festival in
- 4 People make big
- 5 It doesn't get dark
- 6 In Russia, girls make

Midsummer.
in Finland.
in summer.
pretty crowns.
Sweden.
bonfires.

3 Write true or false.

- 1 In Europe, the days are short in June. _____
- 2 In Europe, people have bonfires at Midsummer. _____
- 3 In Russia, girls throw their crowns into the streets. _____
- 4 In Finland, it never gets dark at Midsummer. _____
- 5 In Sweden, people dance around a big pole. _____

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 Do you have a festival with dancing in your country? Which festival?

- 2 Do you have a festival at Midsummer? What do you do?

- 3 What is the warmest month in your country?

9 Halloween

← Read pages 20–21.

1 Write the words.

candy eye lantern mouth nose spider



1 _____



2 _____



3 _____



4 _____



5 _____



6 _____

2 Match.

- 1 When is Halloween?
- 2 What is a Halloween lantern made of?
- 3 What is the day after Halloween?
- 4 Where is All Saints Day a big festival?
- 5 Is All Saints Day a sad festival?

It's big in Mexico.
No, it isn't.
It's made of a pumpkin.
It's All Saints Day.
It's on October 31st.

3 Circle the correct words.

At Halloween:

- 1 People make doors / lanterns.
- 2 Children wear candy / costumes.
- 3 People buy pumpkins / doors.
- 4 People are / aren't really scared.
- 5 Stores sell toys, like sisters / spiders.

4 Order the words.

- 1 at / wear / costumes / Halloween. / Children

- 2 knock / on / They / doors.

- 3 People / children / give / candy.

- 4 really / scared. / aren't / People

- 5 on / have / fun / People / All / Saints / Day.

- 6 play / with / their / brothers / They / and / sisters.

10 New Year

← Read pages 22–23.

1 Write true or false.

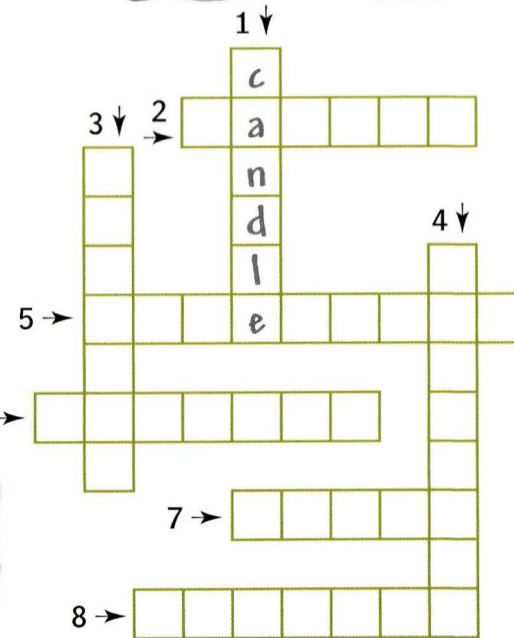
At New Year:

- 1 There are lots of festivals. _____
- 2 In Spain, people eat grapes at midnight. _____
- 3 In Thailand, people throw water. _____
- 4 In Thailand the weather is cold. _____
- 5 Many people watch fireworks. _____
- 6 There are no fireworks in Sydney. _____

2 Circle the correct words.

- 1 At New Year, people in different countries do the same thing / different things.
- 2 In Spain and Portugal, people eat two / twelve grapes at midnight.
- 3 Japanese people like / don't like laughing at midnight.
- 4 In the USA / Thailand, people throw water in the street.
- 5 In Thailand the weather is hot / cold at New Year.

3 Complete the puzzle.



4 Answer the questions.

1 What is your favorite festival?

2 When is it?

3 What do you do?

Project 1

My Festivals Calendar

1 Write the festivals in your country on this calendar.

January	July
February	August
March	September
April	October
May	November
June	December

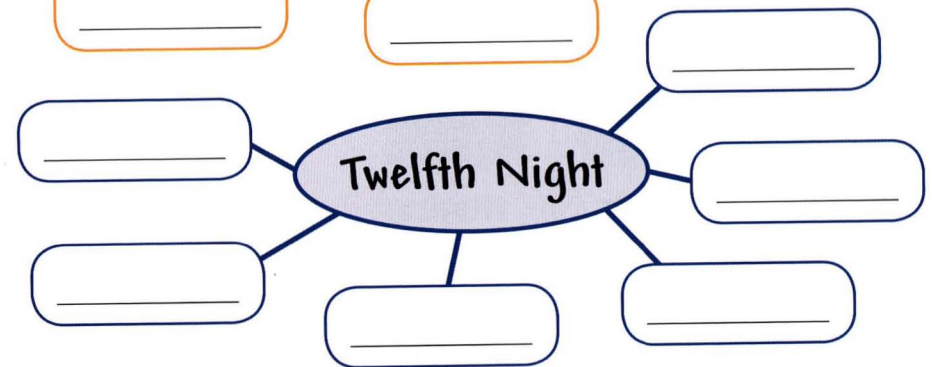
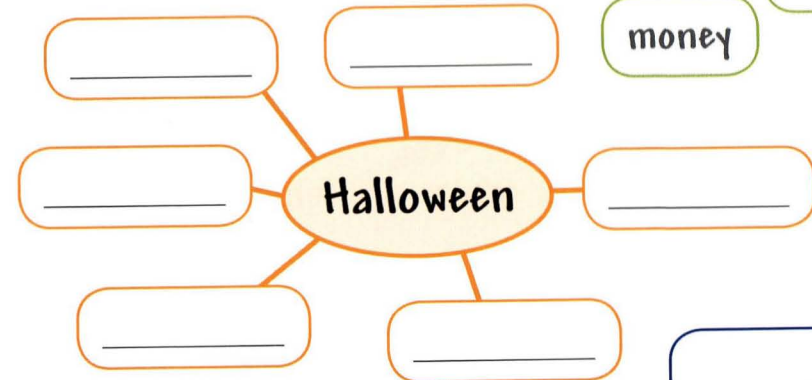
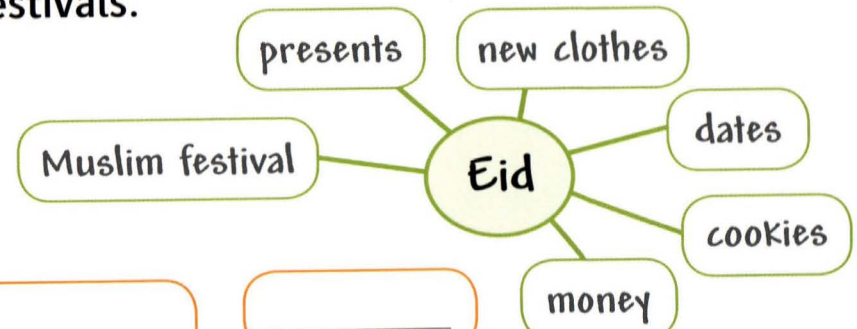
2 Make a poster. Copy the festivals calendar and add photos or pictures of the festivals.

3 Display your poster.

Project 2

Festival Diagrams

1 Complete the diagrams with words about festivals.



2 Make a diagram about a festival in your country.

3 Display your diagram.

Picture Dictionary



blossom



candle



cemetery



cloak



clothes



lake



lamp



leaves



money



mosque



costumes



crops



crown



cut



dates



pancake



parade



pick



picnic



pie



decorate



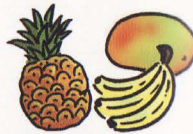
donuts



float



food



fruit



potatoes



pray



present



river



skeleton



harvest



hole



hug



king



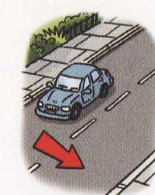
knock



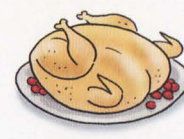
spider



statue



street



turkey



wheat



Oxford Read and Discover

Series Editor: Hazel Geatches • CLIL Adviser: John Clegg

Oxford Read and Discover graded readers are at six levels, for students from age 6 and older. They cover many topics within three subject areas, and support English across the curriculum, or Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL).

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Subject Area Level	The World of Science & Technology	The Natural World	The World of Arts & Social Studies
1 300 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyes • Fruit • Trees • Wheels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the Beach • Camouflage • In the Sky • Young Animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Schools
2 450 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity • Plastic • Sunny and Rainy • Your Body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth • Farms • In the Mountains • Wild Cats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities • Jobs
3 600 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How We Make Products • Sound and Music • Super Structures • Your Five Senses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazing Minibeasts • Animals in the Air • Life in Rainforests • Wonderful Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festivals Around the World • Free Time Around the World
4 750 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All About Plants • How to Stay Healthy • Machines Then and Now • Why We Recycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All About Desert Life • All About Ocean Life • Animals at Night • Incredible Earth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals in Art • Wonders of the Past
5 900 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials to Products • Medicine Then and Now • Transportation Then and Now • Wild Weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All About Islands • Animal Life Cycles • Exploring Our World • Great Migrations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homes Around the World • Our World in Art
6 1,500 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cells and Microbes • Clothes Then and Now • Incredible Energy • Your Amazing Body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All About Space • Caring for Our Planet • Earth Then and Now • Wonderful Ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Around the World • Helping Around the World

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