

TEACHER'S NOTES

Festivals: May Day: Quiz
by Julian L'Enfant

Level: Elementary / Pre-intermediate

Target age: 9-11 years

Time needed: 15-20 mins

May Day quiz

Procedure

- 1 Check pupils know the following language: a *bridge, traditional, sunrise*.
- 2 Hand out the worksheet. Pupils work in pairs and guess the answers to the quiz.
- 3 Check the answers as a class and see how many they guessed correctly.
- 4 Compare the traditions of the countries in the quiz to those of the pupils' culture. Are any the same?

Key:

1. c. *Morris dancing is a traditional English form of folk dancing, performed by groups of men or women. It has been danced for hundreds of years. The dances are usually performed at festivals such as May Day and Christmas.*
2. b. *Many students have jumped off the bridge into the River Cherwell to celebrate May Day. However, the river is often very shallow and many people have been injured. Police now close the bridge to stop people jumping.*
3. a. *The maypole is made of wood with long coloured ribbons attached to the top. The pole is decorated with flowers. Children hold one ribbon each and dance around the maypole, weaving in and out. The ribbons become shorter and a pattern appears on the maypole.*
4. a. *Some students from St Andrews in Scotland run into the North Sea at sunrise and they sometimes take off all their clothes.*
5. b. *Morris dancers decorate their costumes with bells and ribbons. Sometimes they carry handkerchiefs and sometimes they carry sticks.*
6. a. *On 21st April, 1856, stonemasons and building workers on building sites around Melbourne, Australia stopped work and marched from the University of Melbourne to Parliament House to achieve an eight-hour day.*
7. b. *People choose a May Queen to lead the May Day parade.*

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May Day quiz

1. What is the name of the traditional dancing on May Day in England?
 - a. Charles dancing
 - b. William dancing
 - c. Morris dancing

2. What is a dangerous student tradition in Oxford, England on May Day?
 - a. swimming in the cold river
 - b. jumping off the bridge into the river
 - c. sailing on the river

3. What do children dance around on May Day?
 - a. a maypole
 - b. a may flag
 - c. a may stick

4. What is the student tradition at sunrise in Scotland on 1st May?
 - a. to run into the North Sea
 - b. to have a big breakfast
 - c. to give flowers

5. Which item below is not part of a morris dancer's costume?
 - a. a handkerchief
 - b. a cloak
 - c. bells

6. What country did the workers who first achieved an eight-hour day in 1856 come from?
 - a. Australia
 - b. England
 - c. the USA

7. What do people need to choose every year for the May Day festival?
 - a. the best parade
 - b. a May Queen
 - c. the best flowers