CELEBRATIONS

Coming Of Age

one stop english

Worksheet

1. Warmer

In your country, how old must people be to do these things?

get married

vote

drive a car

buy alcohol

sign a phone contract

2. Key words

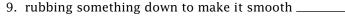
a. Scan the four short texts to find and underline the key words.

b. Match the key words with their definitions.

c. Then read the texts again to see how they are used in context.

Texts a. & b.

| accounta | ble ball | gown co | mmandment | liberal |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| mass | partici | ipate pra | yer shawl | tiara |
| the main religious co | eremony of the Roma | n Catholic church | | _ |
| a special long dress | usually worn at an ev | vent where there is da | ncing and often a | a meal |
| a piece of jewellery | that a woman wears o | on top of her head tha | t looks like a sma | all crown |
| according to the Bib | le, one of the ten rule | es that God gave peop | le to tell them ho | w to behave and act |
| in a position where J | people have the right | to criticise you or asl | k you why sometl | hing happened |
| in a position where p | people have the right — | to criticise you or asl | k you why somet | hing happened |
| take part in somethi | ng | | | |
| take part in somethi | ng | , | | |
| take part in somethi a long, specially dec | ng orated piece of cloth | that is worn over the | shoulders for rel | igious occasions |
| take part in somethi a long, specially dec | ng orated piece of cloth | | shoulders for rel | igious occasions |
| take part in somethi a long, specially dec this word describes | ng orated piece of cloth | that is worn over the | shoulders for rel | igious occasions |



10. the qualities that make up someone's personality _____



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| 11. | representing something important |
|-----|---|
| 12. | a religious ceremony to make someone or something very clean |
| 13. | words that someone says when they are speaking to their god(s) |
| 14. | a valuable or special item that has belonged to a family for many years |
| 15. | sensible, reliable, and able to be trusted to do the right thing |
| 16. | be sure that someone is honest, fair, and reliable |



2

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a. Quinceañera

This is the celebration of a girl's fifteenth birthday. It is the most important celebration for girls in Mexico, Latin America, and on Caribbean islands such as Cuba. The celebration begins with a Catholic mass. Then there is a big party with food, cake, music and dancing. The girl (also called the quinceañera), wears a ball gown and a tiara. She chooses her closest friends to be part of the celebration with her.

At the celebration, the quinceañera gives a doll to her younger sister to show that she is no longer a child. Another tradition is the 'changing of the shoes' when her father changes the quinceañera's flat shoes for high heels to show that she is now a woman and not a girl.

b. Bar Mitzvah/Bat Mitzvah

When a Jewish boy has his 13th birthday, he is a bar mitzvah (Hebrew for son of the commandment). This means that he is accountable for what he does and that he may participate in all areas of Jewish life. Most families celebrate this very important birthday with a special ceremony.

Usually the boy reads from the Torah and gives a speech in the synagogue. He wears a prayer shawl called a *tallit*. Afterwards, there is a party for all the boy's family and friends. Liberal Jewish communities also celebrate a girl's bat mitzvah (Hebrew for daughter of the commandment) in a similar way.

c. Metatah

Every Balinese teenager must have a tooth filing ceremony, or Metatah ceremony.

In this ceremony, a Hindu priest files down six teeth to remove negative things from the teenager's character and to make them ready to be a good adult.

These days, the 'filing' is often symbolic and does not hurt the teenager or really cut their teeth.

The important and expensive tooth filing ceremony must be carried out before a Balinese person gets married. It shows that the teenager is now an adult.

The celebration includes purification ceremonies and special prayers.

d. Sweet sixteen

In the United States and Canada, sweet sixteen parties celebrate a girl's (or sometimes a boy's) 16th birthday. The celebration might be a small family party at home or a big expensive party in a hotel with hundreds of guests. This celebration shares some traditions with a quinceañera. At both celebrations, there is a fatherdaughter dance, the shoe ceremony, and at a sweet sixteen celebration, the birthday girl might be given a family heirloom such as a piece of jewellery. Sometimes she might even get her first car! As well as making the day special, these gifts show that the girl is responsible and that her parents can trust her.



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3. Find the information

Answer the questions with the names of the celebrations.

Which celebrations:

1. are connected to birthdays? _____

- 2. just celebrate boys? _____
- 3. just celebrate girls? _____
- 4. have a strong religious element? _____
- 5. partly take place in a religious building? _____
- 6. are connected to one country? _____
- 7. share some of the same traditions?
- 8. must be done before a person gets married? _____

4. Using the key words

a. Use some of the words from task 2 to complete these sentences.

- 1. The shoe ceremony has a great ______ meaning for the teenage girl.
- 2. This evening's ______ will start at 6pm. Don't be late. The priest doesn't like it when people are late.
- 3. The diamond earrings she wore at her wedding were a family ______
- 4. I like her, but I don't know if I can really ______ her to keep a secret.
- 5. The ceremony ended with special ______ for peace.
- 6. Parents are ______ for their young children.
- 7. Their views on marriage and divorce are very _____
- 8. I'm going to ______ in a drug trial for a new medicine.

b. Now use these or some of the other key words in sentences of your own.





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5. Discussion

Circle the most important birthday in your country or culture.

13 15 16 18 21 (other) ____

Talk about how this special birthday is celebrated. Say:

- who is invited
- who pays
- where the celebration is held

Talk about

- special traditions
- presents
- food
- music
- clothes

Is there a special greeting that people say on this day? e.g. Happy birthday congratulations: *mazel tov*

