

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

TRADITIONS IN THE UK (III/2-AJ4/2.1/Ve)

STUDENT'S WORKSHEET

Task 1.

Watch the presentation and fill in the missing facts in the text. The number of the dashes is the same as the number of letters in the words or phrases.

Holidays and festivals in the United Kingdom

The British observe holidays and feasts in which many of the national customs and traditions have been preserved. The holidays are a good opportunity for having fun and a good time. Public holidays are called bank holidays. On these days banks and shops are closed.

The first day off in the calendar year is **New Year's Day**.

Very popular holiday comes on the 14th February. It's called _____ (1). On this day people give presents to their girlfriend, boyfriends, wives or husbands. They send _____ (2) to the person they secretly love or admire. Valentine gifts are usually things like boxes of chocolates, hearts and _____ (3), especially roses. Originally this day commemorated the Roman priest who helped the Christians.

17th March is the festival which commemorates the patron saint of Ireland. It's called _____ (4). It's a public holiday in Ireland. People often wear shamrocks on that day and everything turns green.

The spring festival of the Christian church, **Easter**, is a movable feast. It is celebrated either in _____ or _____ (5). Good Friday commemorated Jesus' crucifixion and Easter Monday commemorates Jesus' _____ (6). Originally it was a festival celebrating the spring. _____ (7), dyed and decorated or chocolate ones symbolizing new life are given as presents.

Queen's official birthday is celebrated on Saturday after June 9. There are various ceremonies associated with it, such as the ceremony of _____ (8) at the Horse Guards Parade in London.

An autumn festival, _____ (10), gets its name from All Hallows' Eve. The night of October 31 was traditionally believed to be the time when evil spirits and ghost would come out. Children celebrate it by dressing up in Halloween costumes. Carrying baskets they go to their neighbours' houses saying "_____ " (11) which means give us a treat or we will play a trick on you. People sometimes give parties on Halloween. The guests usually wear fancy costumes of skeletons, ghosts, wizards or witches.

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November 5 is the anniversary of the _____ (12) in 1605. It's celebrated with bonfires, fireworks and the burning of guys (effigy of Guy Fawkes - an English conspirator

who with other Catholics tried to blow up the Parliament). The plot was discovered and Guy Fawkes was executed.

Another Christian festival is **Christmas**. Unlike other parts of Europe, the English have no traditional celebration on _____ (13) - (24th December). Many people spend the day shopping. Before English children go to sleep on this day, they hang up Christmas stockings at the end of their beds and believe that _____ (14) rides through the air on a sledge drawn by _____ (15) and comes down the chimney and fills up the stockings with presents and toys. Larger things are found under the Christmas tree. In the rooms holly and mistletoe is hung as a decoration. December 25 is the most festive day of Christmas. In the morning children unwrap the presents and at midday there comes Christmas dinner. It consists of _____ (16) with chestnut stuffing, roast potatoes and Christmas pudding. It's made with lots of dried fruits, eggs and very little flour. There are plenty of carols on the radio and TV. On Christmas Day the monarch addresses the nation and the Commonwealth on radio and television.

December 26 is called _____ (17). A traditional Christmas-time entertainment performed on this day is pantomime. It's a theatre show based on a fairy tale like Cinderella or Little Red Riding Hood.

Some nations celebrate **New Year's Eve**, but for the English the most important holiday is Christmas. On New Year's Eve the English people stay up till midnight to see the old year out and _____ (18) to the New Year. In London some people gather in Trafalgar Square and celebrate the coming of the New Year by singing and dancing.

The Scottish name for New Year's Eve is _____ (19). It's celebrated more than Christmas. It begins with the arrival of guests who have been invited to join the family to see in the New Year. They sit down to dinner which begins with _____ (20) - Scotland's national dish. Before midnight people gather in the square, they sing and dance in the Scottish style. At midnight people cross arms and sing a traditional song "Auld Lang Syne".