



Traditional festivals

Christmas

Lucy (12) London

“My favourite time of the year is Christmas. At school, we make Christmas cards and decorations and have a Christmas Concert. At the beginning of December, we start opening the doors on the advent calendar. About two weeks before Christmas, we put up the Christmas Tree and decorations at home. On Christmas Day, my brother and sister and I wake up really early to see what’s in our stockings from Father Christmas. We go to church and sing carols and say Happy Christmas to our friends. When we come home, we open the presents under the Christmas Tree. Our grandparents come to our house and we have the traditional Christmas Dinner: roast turkey, roast potatoes, vegetables and Christmas Pudding. Yummm! At the end of dinner, we pull crackers. There’s always a paper hat, a joke and a little plastic toy inside. They’re fun!”

BRITISH TRADITIONS

- Some British Christmas traditions go back to pre-Christian times, like decorating the house with green leaves (holly), others go back to the 19th century, for example the Christmas tree decorations and advent calendars.
- The name Easter comes from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre.
- May Day celebrations go back to a pagan festival to celebrate the end of Winter.



Easter



Duncan (13) Ireland

“For my family, the Easter season starts on Shrove Tuesday, when we eat pancakes. You toss them up in the air. They’re difficult to catch – they usually fall on the floor! My dad’s the expert in our family! In some towns, there are Pancake Races. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Five weeks and two days later, on Good Friday, we eat Hot Cross Buns – they’re really nice. On Easter Day, we get Easter Eggs. Most Easter eggs are in a colourful box and they have a bag of sweets inside. In my town, we have an egg-rolling competition in the morning. First, children boil and decorate some eggs at home. The competition is at the top of a hill and you roll the eggs down the hill. The prize is a big chocolate egg. After that, there’s an Easter Parade and a competition for the best Easter Bonnet – my little sister usually does that. I prefer egg-rolling!”

May Day

Alice (12) Oxford

“1st May is a special day in Oxford. We get up very early in the morning and go to see some of the university students singing on the roof of their college! All the church bells in the town ring, too.

After school, we dance round the Maypole. This is a tall, painted pole, with long ribbons attached to it. You hold a ribbon and dance. My friends and I really enjoy this, but you have to practise first because it's quite difficult.”



New words

- stockings • carols • Shrove • stockings
- carols • Shrove Tuesday • Lent • toss
- Ash Wednesday • Good Friday • boil • roll
- bonnet • roof • pole • ribbons • hold • quite

Think

- 1 Sai quali sono le ricorrenze che è tradizione festeggiare nel Regno Unito?
- 2 Conosci le festività rappresentate nelle foto? Che cosa sai riguardo a queste ricorrenze?

Read

- 3 Leggi velocemente i testi e scrivi il nome delle festività sotto a ciascun disegno.



1 pancakes

.....



2 maypole

.....



3 cracker

.....



4 hot cross buns

.....



5 stockings

.....



6 bonnet

.....

4 Rispondi alle domande.

- 1 What does Lucy's family do two weeks before Christmas?
- 2 Why do Lucy and her brother and sister wake up early on Christmas Day?
- 3 What do people eat for Christmas Dinner in the UK?
- 4 When does the Easter season start for Duncan's family?
- 5 What is inside Easter eggs in the UK?
- 6 What's the date of May Day?
- 7 What traditional dance does Alice do on May Day?

Speak

- 5 Natale e Pasqua si festeggiano allo stesso modo in Italia? Quali sono le differenze e quali le somiglianze con le tradizioni inglesi?

Write

- 6 Scegli una festività e scrivi un paragrafo su come viene festeggiata in Italia, seguendo le domande come traccia.

- Which festival is it?
- When is it?
- What do you do?
- What food do you eat?
- Do you wear special clothes?