What do you celebrate?
1 Look at Lisa’s scrapbook page and label the events.

Matt’s graduation  Anna’s birthday  Independence Day  New Year’s Eve

2 Read and number the photo captions.

1. My cousin’s blowing out her candles! I can’t believe she’s ten!
2. He’s wearing a cap and gown. He looks really handsome.
3. We’re watching a parade! This marching band is playing the national anthem.
4. She’s opening her presents! That one was from me!
5. Here he’s getting a diploma! He starts college in the fall.
6. Everyone’s waving American flags and wearing red, white and blue!
7. I’m making resolutions. Next year, I want to eat better and smile more!
8. They’re setting off fireworks. Beautiful!
Guess What!
On New Year’s Eve in Denmark, people smash plates against their friends’ doors for good luck in the next year.

3 Read and complete the celebration activities.
1. make ____________________________
2. blow out ____________________________
3. wear a ____________________________
4. set off ____________________________
5. wave ____________________________
6. open ____________________________
7. get a ____________________________
8. watch a ____________________________

4 Listen and number the celebrations.
Independence Day  a birthday  New Year’s Eve  graduation

Classify the words.
cake  candles  cap and gown  fireworks  flag  diploma  marching band  parade  presents  singing

Independence Day  |  Birthday  |  New Year’s Eve  |  Graduation

Glossary
handsome: good-looking
national anthem: the official song of a country
college: a school where you go after high school to get a bachelor’s degree
smash: to break
Thanksgiving is one of the largest celebrations in the United States. It is always on the fourth Thursday of November. Millions of people gather for a day of feasting, football and family. On Thanksgiving morning, 3.5 million people watch the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. More than 50 million people watch the event on TV. In the afternoon or evening, families have a delicious turkey dinner.

1. Thanksgiving is today / next week.
2. They are / aren’t celebrating Thanksgiving in New York.
3. They are / aren’t visiting their grandparents next week.

Every year, millions of people celebrate
by watching the
in New York City.

Guess What!
Pumpkin pie is the most popular pie for Thanksgiving dinners.

Happy Thanksgiving
Listen and mark (√ or ✗) the plans for the trip.

- flying
- staying in a hotel
- having dinner
- going shopping at midnight
- taking the bus
- staying with their grandparents
- watching football
- going to the parade

Listen and circle T (True) or F (False).

1. The kids are arriving tomorrow morning. T F
2. Grandma is baking a pie this afternoon. T F
3. She’s cooking the turkey on Thursday. T F
4. Grandpa isn’t helping with the preparations. T F
5. He’s taking the grandkids to the parade. T F

Listen again and unscramble the sentences.

1. are / when / coming / the kids

2. not / I / making / a pie / am

3. you / taking / the kids / to / are / the parade

4. cooking / the turkey / on Thursday / am / I

Think Fast! In your notebook, write five sentences about Stickman’s plans for Thanksgiving.

Glossary

- bakery: a store where you can buy bread, cake, cookies or pies
- nap: a short sleep during the day
Read and circle the correct option.

**Religious Celebrations**

All over the world, religious celebrations are important to billions of people! Here are two religious celebrations: bar and bat mitzvahs and Eid al-Fitr.

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**Bar and Bat Mitzvahs**

In the Jewish community, a boy becomes a bar mitzvah when he turns 13. (A bat mitzvah is a similar ceremony for girls when they turn 12.) This event celebrates the transition to adulthood. As a part of the occasion, children recite religious texts. After this ceremony, the bar or bat mitzvah receives gifts and money in multiples of 18—a number that symbolizes a long life. From this time on, they can participate as adults in religious activities.

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**Eid al-Fitr**

Eid al-Fitr (pronounced ed œl flt-Ur) is an important religious holiday for the world’s two billion Muslims. Eid al-Fitr, or Eid, is the first day after Ramadan, a month of fasting. On this day, Muslims say prayers and have a special meal. Children open presents. Many people give to the poor or donate money to charities, an important part of the religion.

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1. Bar and bat mitzvahs are Jewish / Muslim celebrations.
2. A bar mitzvah is the name of a celebration and the boy / girl who participates.
3. In a bar mitzvah, the participant is 12 / 13.
4. The number 12 / 18 represents long life.
5. Eid al-Fitr is a Jewish / Muslim celebration.
6. Eid occurs before / after Ramadan.
7. People celebrate Eid by fasting / eating.

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Read again and complete the mind map in your notebook.

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**Glossary**

- **adulthood**: being an adult
- **recite**: to read a text aloud
- **fasting**: living without food or drink
- **prayers**: requests or expressions of gratitude
Glossary

birth: when a person is born
enlightenment: spiritual awakening
death: when a person dies
robes: long, loose gowns

Listening Practice

Wesak is a religious celebration, so many Buddhists go to a temple to pray and meditate. They often take flowers and __________ with them.

And in general, when we celebrate Wesak Day, we try to make other people __________, especially people who are poor or sick.

Sunisa here! It’s May and next week is a very special holiday in Thailand, and for Buddhists all over the __________: Wesak Day! On Wesak, we celebrate the birth, the enlightenment and the death of Buddha.

At the temple, people give __________ to the Buddhist monks—men who devote themselves to a simple life (they’re easy to identify because they wear robes). At night, everyone walks around the temple __________ times in a special ceremony.

In your notebook, make a mind map for Wesak Day.

Stop and Think! What do you know about religious celebrations around the world?
1. Read the facts about Mexico and underline the one you find the most interesting.

Did you know...

- In 2015, nearly 26 million tourists visited Mexico.
- Mexico has 11 active volcanoes.
- The largest pyramid in the world is in Cholula, in the Mexican state of Puebla.
- Foods like red tomato, corn, avocado and chocolate originated in Mexico.
- The smallest dog breed in the world, the chihuahua, got its name after the State of Chihuahua in northern Mexico.
- Every year, millions of monarch butterflies travel to Mexico from the US and Canada.
- There are 32 UNESCO world heritage sites in Mexico.

2. Read and label.

- **November 1st and 2nd**
- **Why?**
- **Who?** people in Mexico: families, schools
- **When?**
- **Main Activities** creating an **ofrenda**: a display with *pan de muerto*—“bread of the dead,” sugar skulls, candles and flowers
- **Other Activities** visiting **graves** in a **cemetery** (Some people stay all night!)
- decorating homes and public spaces with **calacas**
- **to remember to people who have died**
La Catrina is one of the most popular symbols of the Day of the Dead in Mexico. What is La Catrina? It’s a skeleton of a woman in an elegant hat and a long formal dress. La Catrina is the invention of a famous Mexican illustrator, Jose Guadalupe Posada, just before the Mexican Revolution. He drew La Catrina in 1910 to make fun of wealthy Mexicans who imitated European styles. Posada took his inspiration from Mictecacihuatl (mIk-tEk-si-wa-t´l), the Aztec goddess of death and queen of the underworld. Posada only illustrated the head of La Catrina in 1910. In 1947, the Mexican artist Diego Rivera painted a full-length view of La Catrina in the mural “Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in Alameda Park.” Nowadays, some people wear costumes to look like La Catrina, even outside of Mexico.

Glossary

breed: a type of dog with specific characteristics
graves: tombs; spaces for dead people in a cemetery
cemetery: an area with tombs
wealthy: rich

Stop and Think! How can holidays bring people together as a community?

Read and answer in your notebook.

1. What is La Catrina?
2. When did Jose Guadalupe Posada invent this figure?
3. Why did he draw this figure wearing an elegant hat?
4. Who is Mictecacihuatl?
5. How was Diego Rivera’s Catrina different?
Look at the St. Patrick’s Day infographic on page 23. Read and match.

1. St. Patrick is the patron of this country. Murphy
2. This plant is a symbol of Ireland. Boston
3. This is a common Irish surname. leprechaun
4. The first St. Patrick’s Day parade was here. Ireland
5. These are Irish instruments. Australia
6. This is a magical creature. shamrock
7. People celebrate St. Patrick’s Day here too. bagpipes

Listen and complete the sentences.

1. Shaun’s surname is ___________________________.
2. He lives in ___________________________.
3. His family is originally from ___________________________.
4. There’s a big ___________________________ and fireworks in Sydney on St. Patrick’s Day.
5. This year his family is having a ___________________________ with Irish music and dancing.

Choose and research another celebration’s origins and traditions.

Halloween  Hanukkah  Groundhog Day
Mardi Gras  Easter  Memorial Day

Make an infographic with your findings. Add a party invitation to your infographic.

We’re organizing a St. Patrick’s Day party at school on March 17th at 7:30 p.m.
Wear something green!
We’re having Irish dancing and music.
See you there!
Many people dress as leprechauns for St. Patrick’s Day. A leprechaun is a kind of magical creature: a little man with a beard dressed in green clothing.

St. Patrick’s Day is March 17. According to tradition, this is the date of St. Patrick’s death.

The shamrock—a common three-leaved plant in Ireland—is a symbol of Ireland and St. Patrick’s Day. St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach about his religion.

St. Patrick’s Day is special to people with Irish ancestors. Common Irish surnames include Murphy, Kelly, O’Brien, Ryan, O’Neill and O’Connor.

St. Patrick was born in Roman England.

Pirates kidnapped Patrick and took him to Ireland as a slave.

Patrick escaped and returned to England.

Patrick went to Ireland to teach Christianity.

Patrick died.

The very first St. Patrick’s Day parade was not in Ireland but in Boston in 1737.

Even people in Australia celebrate St. Patrick’s Day! St. Patrick’s Day parades normally include people playing bagpipes, a traditional Irish instrument.

Many people dress as leprechauns for St. Patrick’s Day. A leprechaun is a kind of magical creature: a little man with a beard dressed in green clothing.

90% of Americans celebrate St. Patrick’s Day! In the US, you can buy green “shamrock” milkshakes on St. Patrick’s Day. In Chicago, they dye the river green to celebrate this day.
1. Look and label the celebrations.

2. Read and match. Then look and number the scenes.

1. blow out
2. get
3. set off
4. make
5. wear
6. watch
7. wave
8. open

1. a cap and gown
2. candles
3. flags
4. fireworks
5. presents
6. resolutions
3 Unscramble the sentences.

1. you / what / doing / after / school / are / ?

2. is / Janice / party / not / going / the / to

3. we / giving / sweater / for / Tim / birthday / a / his / are

4. to / you / the / going / football / are / tonight / game / ?

5. parents / are / my / having / not / for / Thanksgiving / turkey

4 Complete the e-mail using the correct forms of the verbs.

Hi Jessica,

Are (1) ______________ (have) a nice summer? I’m in Rome with my Italian cousins. It’s a lot of fun!
Tomorrow, we (2) ______________ (go) to the Colosseum and then we (3) ______________ (have) lunch in Piazza Navona. Pizza, pizza and more pizza! Later, my mom (4) ______________ (go) shopping with my aunt, but I (5) ______________ (take) a tour of the Vatican. Yes, I love sightseeing!
We (6) ______________ (not visit) any other museums because we don’t have time, but we (7) ______________ (take) a bus to see an ancient Roman villa on Friday. And we (8) ______________ (travel) back home next week. I’ll text you!
Ciao from Rome,
Giovanni

giovanni.pizoli@avsd.net
jess.robinson@avsd.net

5 Rewrite the sentences.

1. We’re going to a rock concert tonight! ➔ ?

2. My friend Amy’s going to the parade. ➔ –

3. We aren’t setting off fireworks tonight. ➔ +

4. Is Paul having a graduation party? ➔ +

5. You’re going to the party. ➔ ?
1. Read and guess the holiday. Unscramble and write.

**EWHALONLE**
Tonight we’re visiting houses in our neighborhood. I’m wearing a vampire costume. I hope I get a lot of candy!

**EANDPENDIDEN YCE**
We decorated our house with flags. Today we’re watching a parade. In the afternoon, we’re having a picnic. At night, we’re setting off fireworks!

**ANEENYLT’A DVS**
Some people send flowers or buy expensive gifts. My friends and I are exchanging candy and cards.

**VIKINGSHANTG**
In my family… we’re watching a parade in the morning. Then we’re eating an enormous meal. On Friday, we’re going shopping!

2. Read and solve the puzzle.

**Down**
1. a skeleton in a dress
2. lights on a birthday cake
3. a popular food on Thanksgiving
4. gifts people receive

**Across**
5. a document you receive at graduation
6. a square hat for graduation
7. decisions for the New Year
8. holidays or special occasions

**Guess What!**
Finland has a wife-carrying festival! It’s a race! Husbands carry their wives through a 235-meter obstacle course.