

ADULTS



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Activity 1

Fake News

A. Work with a partner. Discuss this question:

- How does fake news spread?

B. Skim read the text. Answer the questions.

1. Were any of your ideas from Exercise 1 mentioned? If so, what?
2. What is the main purpose of the text? Justify your answer to your partner.

C. Read the text again. Answer the questions according to the text.

1. What makes a bot effective at sharing fake news?

2. How might users within our social network contribute to our confirmation bias?

3. How might being trolled result in you sharing fake news?

4. What is the real-world impact of microtargeting?

D. Summarise the four main paragraphs of the text in around 25 words each.

Paragraph 1:

Paragraph 2:

Paragraph 3:

Paragraph 4:

E. Work with a partner. Use the prompts to ask a question to your partner. Take turns asking and answering questions.

1. why / people / discredit / moon landings ?
2. politicians / manipulative ?
3. know / algorithms / work ?
4. elderly / vulnerable / illness ?
5. prone to / mistakes ?
6. read / dubious / online ?
7. you think / echo chamber / social media ?
8. confirmation bias / sometimes ?
9. bombarded / spam emails / spam filter ?
10. how / stop / spread / disinformation ?

F. Work with a partner. Answer the questions.

1. Did any of the information in the text surprise you? If so, what?
2. Which of these factors do you think is the most important for social media users to be aware of?
3. Do you think social media companies should do more to address the issue of fake news? If so, what?

4. What advice would you give social media users about how to limit the spread of fake news?

How is fake news spread?

Social media is rife with fake news, but what causes fake news to spread? There are lots of factors that contribute to the spread of disinformation – here are just some of them.

1. Bots

It is estimated that between 5–10% of all social media accounts are actually robots (*bots* for short). Bots can act like actual people, performing everyday tasks like sharing content, following other users, commenting and joining in debates. However, bots are just computer **algorithms** – they are simply completing a series of tasks that they've been programmed to do. They can also learn from patterns of interaction among social media users, which helps them complete their tasks more efficiently.

How do bots spread fake news? Well, bots can be programmed to share information that is not **validated** or reliable. What's more, they can do this on a large scale, and repetitively too. They can **bombard** social media with disinformation, linking this to trending hashtags in order to gain more exposure.

2. People

The success of bots in sharing fake news is partly attributed to people. Many of us fall into the trap of **confirmation bias** – that is, we are inclined to believe something that supports our own views. Bots are master manipulators - if they manage to **infiltrate** the feeds of users we trust, we may be quick to reshare that information without questioning it. Similarly, those who trust us will share that information too, which only serves to **reaffirm** or validate our own beliefs.

The '**echo chamber**' phenomenon on social media plays into the hands of bots, but people **are prone to** sharing their own **dubious** content without the help of bots, too. The sheer amount of information available to us on a daily basis can make us lazy, and we can tend to skim read content without much **scrutiny**.

3. Trolls

There are certain social media users that aim to argue, intimidate and **discredit** those that they don't agree with. Strong, emotionally-fuelled engagement on social media is a friend of fake news. Trolling creates the perfect conditions for fake news to spread, as both the trolls and those being trolled seek to justify their opinion with evidence. That evidence is often shared uncritically, in the heat of the moment. Furthermore, trolling generates interest (everyone loves a good argument), meaning that trolls have a willing audience which may help fuel certain (questionable) ideas.

4. Microtargeting

Social media sites gather data on their users. They use this data to filter the information you see to make it more suited to your interests. The analytics used by these sites can improve user experience, but they can also be used for microtargeting. This is when a post is shared with a specific audience as they are likely to read it, share it, or interact with it. Some targeted content may seem harmless, but user data can be passed on to third-parties which have a more **manipulative** motive. One analytics company, Cambridge Analytica, used Facebook data to help target voters during the 2016 US presidential election campaign. Microtargeting doesn't necessarily mean that users will be targeted with fake news, but it does make them **vulnerable** to it.

Activity 2

International Worker's Day



International Workers' Day – also known as Labour Day – is celebrated on May 1st in a large number of countries around the world. In many towns and cities, people march through the streets with banners and speeches are made to celebrate the achievements of workers, labourers and the working classes. It is also a day of protests, as many political and workforce campaigners use this day to voice their concerns, complaints and demands.

International Workers' Day has its roots in the US, and in Chicago in particular. The day commemorates the so-called Haymarket Affair of 1886 (when a peaceful meeting turned violent), and the introduction of the eight-hour working day. Before this, workers often had to work up to 16 hours a day in unsafe conditions, and their rights were practically non-existent.

On May 1st 1866, between 200,000 and half a million US workers went on strike all over the country. In Chicago alone, around 40,000 strikers protested about their poor working conditions. Here, a fight broke out between strikers and strike-breakers at the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company and police opened fire on the protesters, causing at least two deaths. Seven protesters

were sentenced to death for conspiracy, and an eighth was sent to prison for 15 years. Even though the eight-hour working day did not become law in the USA until 1916, this event spurred the growth of the trade union and labour movements.

The Second International, the then world-wide organisation for workers and socialists, declared in 1889 that from then on May 1st would be an international holiday for labour, in commemoration of the Haymarket Affair. It is now widely known as International Workers' Day.

In 1978, May 1st (or the Monday following May 1st) was turned into a bank holiday in the UK by the Labour government and here it is known as 'May Day'.

During the Cold War in 1958, US President Eisenhower officially declared May 1st to be the new 'Loyalty Day' in the US. This was done to encourage Americans to show their loyalty to the USA on May 1st, instead of showing solidarity with workers in communist countries. 'Labor Day' is celebrated on the first Monday of September in the USA.

International Workers' Day is one of the most important holidays in communist countries. Celebrations in these countries often include elaborate workforce parades and displays of military strength.

A. Read the text about International Worker's Day. Find the words in the article that match the definitions below.

1. Wide pieces of cloth with messages on them, often stretched between two poles.

2. Particular things that you have succeeded in doing. _____

3. Things that you are morally or legally allowed to do or have. _____

4. A period of time during which people refuse to work, as a protest about pay or conditions of work.

5. Started shooting a gun. (2 words) _____

6. When a judge did this, they officially stated what someone's punishment was.

7. A secret plan by a group of people to do something bad or illegal. _____

8. Caused or encouraged something to happen. _____

9. Support that you always give to someone or something because of your feelings of duty and love towards them. _____

10. The support that people in a group give each other because they have the same opinions or aims.

11. Used about something that has a lot of extra details or features that make it special.

12. A public celebration in which a large group of people move through an area, often with decorated vehicles and bands playing music.

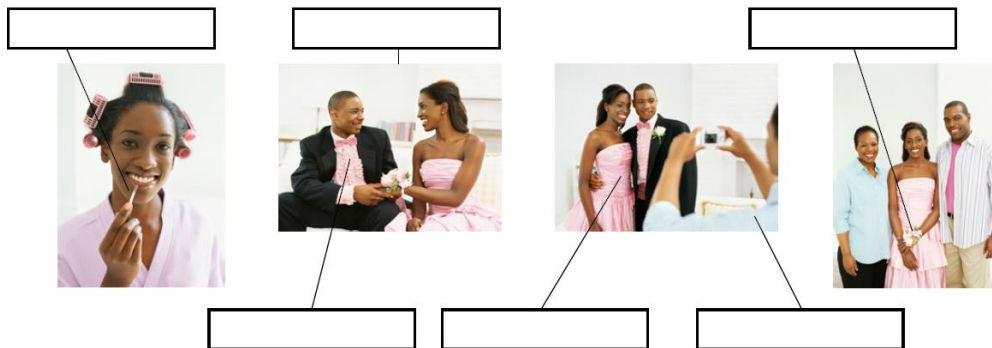
B. Answer the questions with information from the text.

1. When did May Day become a public holiday in the UK?
2. Who declared May 1st to be International Workers' Day and when?
3. What happened on May 1st 1866?
4. The Haymarket Affair encouraged the growth of which organisations?
5. What do many working people do on International Workers' Day?
6. Where in the world are you likely to see military parades on May 1st?
7. How did 'Loyalty Day' come into existence in the USA and why?

Activity 3

Prom Night

A. Label the photos that show some elements of prom. Use the words from the box.



ball gown corsage date make-up photographer tuxedo

Which of these elements played an important role at your school-leaving event? What else do you know about proms?

B. Look at the words in the box below. Quickly find and underline them in the article. Match the words with the definitions below.

adequate extra-curricular graduation uncool parading
peers permissive pinnacle sumptuous topped

1. the most successful or exciting part of someone's life _____
2. a ceremony at which you are given a degree, certificate or other qualification

3. satisfactory, but not extremely good _____
4. impressive, expensive and of high quality _____
5. be better or more impressive than something else _____
6. people who are the same age as you _____
7. activities that you do at school or college that are not part of your course _____
8. walking around so that people will look at and admire you _____
9. allowing someone a large amount of freedom to behave as they choose _____
10. not considered popular, attractive or fashionable _____

What is prom night?

1. One of the pinnacle events in the lives of many high-school students is prom night. Proms have become a rite of passage for most teenagers across the US, and students spend many months, as well as a great deal of money, planning for them.
2. High school proms are usually held towards the end of the academic year in May or June. They celebrate graduation and the end of school in general for high school seniors, who at the age of 17

or 18 are finally leaving school behind them and moving on to the more adult world of college or work.

3. Prom starts well before the actual night. First, the venue and theme of the night have to be carefully considered. In the past, a decorated school gymnasium was considered an adequate venue, but these days proms are more likely to be held in a country club or a hotel ballroom with a sumptuous banquet and music provided by a professional band or DJ. However, so far, no one has topped the venue of Susan Ford's 1975 prom, which was held in the White House during her father's presidency.

4. Also in the lead-up to prom, students cast their votes via the school's website to elect their year's prom king and queen. In the past, this was often not much more than a popularity or beauty contest, but these days students have to get the backing of not only their peers, but also teachers, and so it's as important to get excellent grades, volunteer for extra-curricular activities and show leadership qualities as it is to have sparkling teeth and shiny hair. The king and queen are crowned, presented with sashes and usually expected to lead the other students in the first dance on prom night.

5. In recent years, 'promposals' have become major events in themselves. This is when (usually) a guy asks someone to be his date and accompany him to the prom. The proposals have become more and more elaborate, with many being videoed and put online. Even if a girl does the inviting, however, the boy is still expected to buy an old-fashioned corsage for his date.

6. On prom night, students arrive with their friends at the venue in a specially-hired limousine or party bus. Many parents book photographers to capture images of their teenagers dressed up for the big night in ball gowns and tuxedos (or at least a special prom dress and a suit) before they leave for the prom.

7. When the long-awaited high-school prom comes to an end at around 11 o'clock, the night is still young for many students. And so the celebrations continue with after-prom parties, which have now become as important as the official school prom.

8. Prom night originated in New England universities in the late 19th century as a way for graduating students to prepare themselves for the next stage of their lives. The word *prom* is short for *promenade*, the formal parading around of guests at a party, and proms were originally often seen as a place for graduates to meet their future husband or wife. The booming post-war economy in America, along with the arrival of rock and roll, a new way of dancing, as well as attitudes gradually becoming more permissive in general, paved the way for the formal early proms to evolve into the fun parties they are today.

9. Although prom is as American as baseball, Thanksgiving, and country music, its popularity has spread across the globe in recent years via American movies and TV shows. These days, countries such as the UK, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand have done away with their traditional but relatively uncool school leavers discos and replaced them with glitzy prom nights. Luckily, the prom costs that most parents have to shoulder are still much lower outside of the around £200 per pupil in the UK, compared to a minimum of \$1000 per student in America.

**C. Decide whether the statements are true or false according to the information in the text.
Correct any that are false.**

1. Prom night is a purely American celebration. _____
2. The first prom nights started in the 1950s. _____
3. Proms are usually held in exclusive venues and no longer in schools' sports halls.

4. Prom night celebrates students going off to college. _____
5. Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) elect a prom king and queen each year.

6. Students spend a long time and a lot of money preparing for their perfect prom night.

D. Find expressions in the text that have the following meanings.

1. a ceremony or event that marks an important stage in someone's life, for example becoming an adult
(para 1) _____
2. it's not yet very late (para 7) _____
3. a time in the 1950s when the US was doing very well in business and there were a lot of jobs and new things available to buy (para 8) _____
4. create a situation that makes it possible or easier for something to happen (para 8)

5. get rid of (something) (para 9) _____
6. deal with a financial burden or responsibility (para 9) _____

Activity 4

Kwanzaa

A. Have you ever heard of Kwanzaa?

If yes:

- What do you know about it?
- Do you know anyone who celebrates it?
- Have you ever been to a Kwanzaa celebration?



If no:

Looking at the picture above, what do you think might happen at Kwanzaa?

Now read the article. Does this match up with what you know/guessed about Kwanzaa?

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is quite a new celebration of community, family and culture that was established in 1966 to encourage and help African Americans to connect with their African roots and heritage. It is celebrated from 26 December to 1 January each year. It was created in the USA by Maulana Karenga, as a way to bring African Americans together and celebrate African culture.

The name of this seven-day festival comes from a Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza* which means *first fruits of the harvest*. Karenga added a second 'a' to the last word so that the new festival name would contain seven letters: *Kwanzaa*.

The number seven is important to Kwanzaa. It has seven principles and seven symbols. One of these symbols is the *kinara* (candleholder) which holds seven candles in the colours of the pan-African flag. One candle in the kinara is lit on each of the seven days of Kwanzaa, starting with the black centre candle and moving outwards. The colours of the candles and the Kwanzaa flag, the *bendera*, are black for the people, red for fire and struggle, and green for the earth.

The seven days and seven candles of Kwanzaa represent:

Unity (*umoya*) – unity of family, community, nation and race

Self-determination (*kujichagulia*) – being responsible for ourselves

Collective work and responsibility (*ujima*) – working to help each other and the community

Cooperative economics (*ujamaa*) – working to build and maintain community shops and businesses

Purpose (*nia*) – remembering and restoring African American cultures, customs and history

Creativity (*kuumba*) – using imagination to create better communities

Faith (*imani*) – believing in people, families, leaders and teachers

Kwanzaa is a contemplative, meditative but also joyful celebration that includes African drumming and dancing, pledges, readings and discussions. Many people who celebrate Kwanzaa wear clothes made of brightly coloured traditional fabrics and decorate their houses with cultural objects. On the sixth day of Kwanzaa, 31 December, a traditional African feast (*karamu*) is held.

At first, Karenga meant Kwanzaa to be an alternative to Christmas, but he changed his position a few years later as the celebration gained popularity so that practising Christians could celebrate their African heritage and not feel alienated. These days, many African American families celebrate Kwanzaa as well as Christmas.

Although Kwanzaa originated and is popular in the USA, it is also celebrated in other countries, particularly those where there are many people of African descent. It is neither religious nor political. People of all backgrounds are welcomed to join in with Kwanzaa celebrations – if not

necessarily in people's homes then at the more public celebrations such as the one held annually at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

B. Find and underline the words from the box below in the article.

alienated	heritage	collective	contemplate	unity
pledge	position	principles	righteousness	

C. Now match the words in the box above to the definitions below.

1. basic rules or beliefs about what is right and morally good, that influence the way a person behaves and the way they treat other people _____
2. spending a lot of time thinking very carefully about something _____
3. serious promises that you make publicly, stating that you will do something _____
4. an opinion about an important issue _____
5. feeling that you do not belong in a particular society, place or group _____
6. involving all the members of a group _____
7. the quality of being morally good or correct, especially according to the standards set by religion _____
8. the art, buildings, traditions and beliefs that a society considers important to its history and culture _____
9. a situation in which people, groups or countries come together or agree about something _____

D. Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the information in the article. Correct any that are false.

1. Kwanzaa is the name of a religious festival that takes place in most of Africa.

2. Kwanzaa is celebrated solely by African Americans in the USA. _____
3. The celebration of Kwanzaa includes elements of dress, light, gifts and decoration.

4. Kwanzaa was created in the 1960s by Dr Martin Luther King. _____
5. At first, Kwanzaa was not accepted by Christian African Americans as it was said to be an alternative to Christmas. _____
6. Kwanzaa is the Swahili word for harvest. _____

Activity 5

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)

A. Choose the best answers to the questions.

1. A pancake is a ...
 - a. one-centimetre thick cake baked in the oven in a tin.
 - b. thin flat cake made of batter and fried in a pan.
 - c. round, sweet treat made by deep-frying dough in a pan.
2. Pancake mixture is made using ...
 - a. flour, milk and egg.
 - b. oil, water and flour.
 - c. egg, butter and sugar.
3. In the UK, the favourite pancake topping is ...
 - a. chocolate spread and powdered sugar.
 - b. lemon juice and sugar.
 - c. cheese and ham.

B. Read the article and find and underline the key words from the box below. Then match the words to their definitions (1–12).

charity	The Commonwealth	confess	contestant	determined	fall
fasting	indulgences	mass	peers	sins	toss

1. officially decided or controlled when something happened _____
2. happen on a particular day or date _____

3. tell a priest about the bad things you have done, and ask to be forgiven for them

4. actions or ways of behaving that you think are morally wrong _____
5. eating no food or very little food for a period of time, often for religious reasons

6. special things that someone eats for pleasure, not because they need to

7. an organization of countries that used to be under the political control of the UK

8. a religious ceremony in the Roman Catholic church _____
9. someone who takes part in a race _____
10. throw something up into the air _____
11. people who are from a high social class in the UK and have a title such as 'Lord' or 'Lady'

12. organizations to which you give money so that they can give money and help to people who are poor or ill, or who need advice and support _____

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)



The exact date of Shrove Tuesday each year is determined by the date of Easter. Depending on when Easter is, it can fall anytime between 2 February and 9 March, but it is guaranteed to always take place 47 days before Easter Sunday, and always on a Tuesday. In the UK, Ireland, Australia and Canada, Shrove Tuesday is more commonly known as Pancake Day.

The day after Shrove Tuesday is Ash Wednesday which is the first day of Lent, a period in the Christian calendar which lasts until Easter. The word shrove comes from the old English word 'shrive' which meant 'to confess your sins to a priest'. As Lent is meant to be a time of self-examination and fasting – when people traditionally eat simpler food and give up indulgences such as meat, dairy

products, eggs, as well as (more commonly these days) chocolates and alcohol – it became a tradition in the UK and The Commonwealth countries to use up these foods before Lent by making pancakes.

Many other countries make similar Shrove Tuesday treats using the same or similar ingredients. In French, Pancake Day is known as 'Mardi Gras', meaning 'Fat Tuesday', after the celebratory meals made using these 'luxury' ingredients which celebrated the end of the carnival season and the beginning of Lent.

Although now a normal workday, in the past, Shrove Tuesday was a 'half holiday' in Britain. It started at 11 o'clock in the morning and was announced by the ringing of church bells. Tradition says that in 1445 a woman in Olney in Buckinghamshire was so busy making pancakes that she lost track of time. When she heard the bells ringing, she ran as fast as she could to the church and arrived there just in time for Shrove Tuesday mass, still carrying her pancake in a frying pan. And so began the tradition of holding pancake races through the streets on Shrove Tuesday – a tradition that continues to this day.

Every year on Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, many towns and villages hold pancake races in which the aim is to reach the finishing line as fast as you can without dropping your pancake. The rules usually state that each contestant must toss and catch their pancake, in their frying pan, at the beginning and end of each race. There is even an annual pancake race held in London between members of parliament, peers from the House of Lords and political journalists which raises money for charity.

C. Cover the Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) text and answer the questions with a partner.

1. When is Shrove Tuesday? What determines its exact date?
2. Where does the name 'Shrove' come from?
3. Why is it known as Pancake Day by many people?
4. What unusual competition takes place on Pancake Day, and why?

D. Find a four-word expression in the article that means *to forget about other appointments and plans because you are so interested in what you are doing at the moment.*

E. Use the expression to talk about a day or situation when this happened to you.

I completely when ...

I often when ...

Activity 6

Diwali

A. Match the descriptions in the box with the images of things that happen during the Diwali festival.

giving gifts buying kitchen items, new clothes and gold or silver family parties

brothers visiting sisters cleaning and decorating the home

lights and lamps rangoli fireworks and firecrackers



Day: _____



Day: _____



Day: _____



Day: _____



Day: _____



Day: _____



Day: _____



Day: _____



The biggest and most significant festival of the year in India is Diwali, which is known by many people around the world as the 'festival of the lights'. Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil, hope over despair and brightness over darkness. Consequently, during the five days of Diwali, the whole country is lit up by the joyous glow of lamps, candles and fireworks.

Diwali celebrates the return of Lord Rama and his wife Sita to their kingdom of Ayodhya, after Lord

Rama and Hanuman, the monkey god, rescued Sita, who was being held captive by the ten-headed demon King Ravana.

The exact date of Diwali changes slightly from year to year, in order for day three of the festival to coincide with the full moon that occurs between the end of October and beginning of November. Diwali also marks the beginning of a new year in the Hindu calendar and is as important to Hindus as Christmas is to Christians.

Traditionally, each of the five days of Diwali has a different focus:

- On day one, people clean their homes and go shopping for gold and silver, new clothes and kitchen utensils.
- On day two, they decorate their newly cleaned homes with clay lamps, called diyas, and create elaborate patterns called rangoli on the ground outside the entrances to their homes using coloured powders, rice or sand. Rangoli are said to prevent evil from entering.
- The next day is the main day of the festival. Families come together to offer a prayer to the goddess Lakshmi, who visits every home on Diwali, bringing prosperity and good fortune with her. It is said that she visits the cleanest homes first. After this special prayer, called Lakshmi Puja, families sit down to a mouth-watering feast, which is followed by fireworks and firecrackers.
- On day four, the first day of the new year, people visit their friends and families taking gifts of sweets or clothes.
- The fifth and last day of Diwali is dedicated to celebrating sisters. On this day, brothers visit their married sisters, who cook them a lavish meal to honour the love and bond that exists between them.

Diwali is peak travel time in India, so if you are there during the festival, be prepared for delays. You might also want to keep ear plugs and a mask with you, as the fireworks and firecrackers are not only very loud, but they also greatly increase the amount of pollution in the air.

Although the rituals and traditions connected with Diwali vary slightly from region to region in India – as well as across the world – Diwali is always a joyful family-orientated festival wherever you are.

B. Find words in the text that match the definitions below. The definitions are in the order that the words appear in the text.

1. very important _____
2. the feeling that a situation is so bad that nothing you can do will change it _____
3. as a result _____
4. a soft warm light coming from something _____
5. kept as a prisoner (two words) _____
6. happen at the same time as something else _____
7. items that you use for cooking or eating with _____
8. the situation of being successful and having a lot of money _____
9. when a period of time is used for a particular thing (two words) _____
10. something that is this is given in a very large amount, especially if it costs a lot of money

11. a strong connection that gives people a reason to love one another or feel they have a duty to one another _____
12. used to describe the time when the largest number of people are doing something

Activity 7

Hanukkah

A. Match the descriptions (1–5) to each of the things connected with Hanukkah (a–e).



a. dreidel / sevivon



b. menorah



c. latke



d. Horah



e. Hanukkah gelt

1. A tall silver seven or nine-branched candelabra. The branches are positioned in one line, and each branch holds one special candle.
2. A four-sided spinning top that people play with during Hanukkah.
3. Money and/or chocolate coins given to Jewish children for the festival of Hanukkah.
4. A traditional dance at weddings and holidays, in which people dance together in a circle to traditional Jewish folk music.
5. A potato pancake which is usually fried in oil and served with apple sauce or sour cream.

B. Read the text about Hanukkah. Answer the questions below with information from the text.

1. Where and when did the miracle of Hanukkah take place?

2. Who did the group of Jews reclaim the temple from?

3. Who was the leader of the group of Jews?

4. What miracle took place?

5. What kind of oil was used to light the temple menorah?

Hanukkah



Hanukkah is the Jewish eight-day ‘festival of lights’, celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers, fried foods, games and music.

Hanukkah begins on the twenty-fifth day of Kislev, which is the ninth month in the Jewish calendar. This falls any time between late November and late December.

Hanukkah celebrates a miracle that took place over 2,000 year ago, according to the Torah, the Jewish holy book. At this time, the Holy Land (an area between the eastern shore of the Mediterranean and the River Jordan) was ruled by the Seleucids (Syrian-Greeks), who tried to force the Jewish people living there to worship Greek gods. Although there were only a few of them, a small group of Jews, called Maccabees and led by a man named Judah, defeated a group of Seleucids and reclaimed the city of Jerusalem for the Jewish faith.

However, when they wanted to light the menorah in Jerusalem’s temple, they found that only a tiny amount of the holy purified olive oil had survived the battle; hardly enough to light even one candle. But they managed to light the menorah and miraculously the one-day supply of oil that had survived the battle lasted for eight days.

Today, the nightly lighting of the menorah is therefore a central part of Hanukkah. Most families place their menorah in a doorway or window so that everyone can see it. On the first night, just one candle is lit. On the second night, a second is lit. Often, family members take turns so that they all can light at least one of the candles. By the eighth night of Hanukkah, all eight candles are burning. On each night of Hanukkah, special prayers are recited before the menorah is lit, and traditional songs are sung afterwards. The menorah is also lit in synagogues and other public places such as parks and shopping malls.

Because oil is a central feature of the Hanukkah miracle, fried foods such as latkes and deep-fried doughnuts are usually eaten.

At Hanukkah children and adults play a traditional game with a 'dreidel' on which is written four Hebrew letters. In the game, players win or lose their pile of coins, nuts, or sweets depending which letter the dreidel lands on when it stops spinning.

The giving of gifts is also a part of today's Hanukkah celebrations. In the past, money was given to children to reward them for their good behaviour. Today this has developed into the giving of foil-covered chocolate money called 'Hanukkah gelt'.

C. Find the words in the article that match the definitions below.

1. An event that cannot be explained according to the laws of nature and is considered to be an act of God.
2. Govern and have control of an area.
3. Make someone do something that they do not want to do, for example by using or threatening to use violence.
4. Win against someone in a fight or battle.
5. To receive an item back that somebody has taken from you.
6. Say a poem, story or prayer that you have learnt to other people.
7. A building used by Jewish people for worship and religious study.
8. Very light thin sheets of metal used for wrapping things, especially food.

Activity 8

Krampusnacht

A. Find the words in the article that match the definitions below.

1. relating to, or only existing in old traditional stories _____
2. an evil spirit _____
3. a tall tree with thin branches _____
4. hair or fur that is twisted or stuck together and usually dirty _____
5. stop an activity, especially by making laws or by using your authority _____
6. when a judge officially states that the punishment for a crime is for the person who did the crime to
be killed (3 words) _____
7. the fact that something is boring because it contains nothing new, original or unusual

8. aspects of modern day life that are transmitted via the mass media and aimed particularly at
younger people (2 words) _____
9. advertisements on television or radio _____
10. when something is used in informal conversation rather than in writing or formal language

11. an exciting and impressive public event that is connected with traditional stories and beliefs
from a
particular region (2 words) _____
12. a set of rules stating how people should behave in a certain situation (3 words)

Krampusnacht

The mythical horned devilish Austrian figure of Krampus is gaining popularity in the US and in his central European Alpine homeland.

Krampusnacht – the night of Krampus – takes place on December 5th, the day before St Nicolas' Day. The celebrations are centred in Austria, but they are also popular in some parts of Bavaria in southern Germany, as well as in the Czech Republic, Hungary and the Tyrolean parts of northern Italy. Although it may seem like a new or previously unknown celebration to many, in actual fact the celebration of *Krampusnacht* goes back hundreds of years.

Krampus is a demon-like folklore figure who accompanies Saint Nicolas, the traditional central European version of Santa Claus. But while Saint Nick rewards good children with presents and treats, Krampus catches naughty children, puts them in his sack and beats them with a birch stick. To many people, Krampus is a beloved traditional figure, but one that nevertheless remains controversial.

The word Krampus comes from old German and means 'claw'. The figure of Krampus is a devilish-looking creature who is covered in dark matted fur. He has flaming eyes and long twisted horns, and he wears chains and bells which warn naughty children that he is on his way.

For years, the Catholic Church suppressed the demonic figure of Krampus, and during the time of the Spanish inquisition anyone found celebrating the devil-like Krampus was sentenced to death. During the second World War, the fascists, who were, in principle, against many traditional aspects of Christmas, thought Krampus to be a creation of the left-leaning Social Democrats, and so celebrations were banned again.

But now, Krampus is making a comeback – not only in his traditional homeland, but also in the USA where Krampus fans say that the commercialization and cheery banality of Christmas has driven them to celebrate the devilish (and rather more interesting) beast.

In the past few years, the figure of Krampus has made its way into pop culture. These days you can buy Krampus greetings cards, toys, chocolates and books, not only in Austria but also in many other counties around the world. Krampus has appeared in Christmas commercials, in US TV shows such as *Scooby Doo* and *Lost girl*, and there is even a Hollywood-made Krampus comedy-horror movie.

The largest celebrations, however, are still held in Krampus' traditional Alpine homeland. In Austria, December 5th is known colloquially as *Krampusnacht*. In many town and villages, the whole day is given over to festivities, with the main event taking place after dark. This is the *Krampuslauf*, or the Krampus Run, during which hundreds of young men dress up in Krampus costumes and artistic and elaborate wooden masks and run through the fire-lit streets scaring onlookers.

In many places in Austria and Bavaria the *Krampuslauf* has become the most popular folklore spectacle event of the year, attracting thousands of visitors from near and far. In order to prevent the runs and parades from getting out of hand, some places demand that the Krampuses adhere to a code of conduct in which they promise not to drink alcohol and not to hit children with their birch sticks.

B. Answer the questions with information from the text.

1. Where does the tradition of Krampus originate from?
2. Why hasn't it been celebrated constantly throughout the years?
3. What is the main event in today's Krampus celebrations, and what happens in it?
4. What attracts people around the world to celebrate Krampusnacht?

Activity 9

Dragon Boat Festival

A. In the box below, write 10 words you might use when telling a story about a dragon.



The Dragon Boat Festival

The Dragon Boat Festival is celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese lunar calendar, which usually falls in May or June. The festival is celebrated over a three-day period during which schools and businesses are closed. This public holiday is one of the busiest times to travel in China as many people use the time off work as an opportunity to visit their families over the long weekend.

The festival is not actually about dragons at all, although boats do feature very strongly, especially in the competitive dragon boat races which draw huge crowds where ever they take place all over China, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and increasingly in many other countries around the world.

The roots of the Dragon Boat Festival are usually traced back to the suicide of China's most famous poet, Qu Yuan. The events took place during China's Warring States Period when Qu Yuan was a minister serving the King of the state of Chu. After being slandered by corrupt officials and falling out of favour with the king, Qu Yuan left the capital and went into exile where he wrote what is now considered to be some of China's most patriotic, visionary and famous poetry. In the year 278 BC, after hearing that the Chu capital had fallen to the Qin army, Qu Yuan waded out into the Miluo River and drowned himself. Local villagers paddled furiously out into the river but were unable to save him.

Later, the villagers went back out on the river in their boats and threw rice dumplings into the river as both an offering to Qu Yuan's spirit and to keep the fish and evil spirits away from his body. They continued racing along the river beating drums to frighten off the evil spirits.

This is the reason that rice dumplings, known as zongzi, are a major part of the Dragon Boat Festival today. These triangular sticky rice treats come in both sweet and savoury varieties and are usually wrapped in bamboo leaves or rice paper.

Other customs associated with the Dragon Boat Festival are the hanging of mugwort and calamus herbs over the front door of houses to keep out evil spirits. During the festival many people wear decorative sachets of herbs around their necks for the same reason. These herbs provide an additional benefit as they keep annoying insects such as mosquitos away.

But of course, the main focus of the holiday is the races and the dragon boats themselves. These are typically long wooden boats decorated with a fierce dragon's head at the front end and the dragon's scaly tail at the other. The boats are human-powered to the finishing line by rowers with paddles. One member of each team sits at the front of the boat and beats a drum to ward off evil spirits and to spur his team on to win the race.

In 2009, the Dragon Boat Festival was added to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

B. Answer the questions with information from the article. Find:

a. The name of the poet.

b. The year that he died.

c. Where and how he died.

d. Why he died.

C. How are zongzi, dragon boats, drums and herbs connected to the story of the poet's death and today's Dragon Boat Festival?

Activity 10

Vesak Day

What is Vesak Day?

Vesak Day (also known as Wesak or Buddha Day) is the most important and sacred day to millions of Buddhists all over the world as it celebrates the three most important events in the life of the Buddha: birth, enlightenment and Nirvana.

Siddhārtha Gautama was born into a royal family in Nepal around two and a half millennia ago. He lived a life of luxury, never leaving the palace. At the age of 29, he finally left his palace to visit the city. He learned something he hadn't been aware of before: that all humans will experience old age, sickness and death. He left his family and his privileged life and travelled around India for six years, meeting people who were suffering, and spending time meditating.

At the age of 35, after meditating under a tree for 49 days, he obtained enlightenment and became the Buddha. Enlightenment occurs when a person sees and understands the true nature of all things.

At the age of 80, Buddha died, or passed into Nirvana, therefore breaking out of the cycle of life, death and rebirth.

According to Buddhist scriptures, the three events of the Buddha's life all happened on the day of the first full moon in May, Vesak Day.

On this day, Buddhists the whole world over reaffirm their commitment to Buddha and his teachings and to living a moral and compassionate lifestyle. Around Vesak, slaughterhouses are closed and vegetarian meals are eaten because no creature may be harmed. In many places, caged birds and other animals are released as a symbolic gesture of compassion.

On Vesak it is important to do good deeds, which are called Dana, and to show kindness to those less fortunate than yourself by sharing your food or making donations to charity. Acts of happiness and celebration, such as decorating the temple and creating scenes from Buddha's life, are also carried out on Vesak.

Buddhists often congregate at their local temple on Vesak Day. Many wear white clothes which symbolize purity. They raise the Buddhist flag, chant, sing hymns, meditate, listen to sermons, lay flowers, burn incense and light candles. After sunset, colourful lanterns are often lit released into the dark night sky.

Wilting flowers, flickering candles and burnt joss sticks symbolise the impermanence of life and its ultimate decay.

Vesak is a day of joy, peace and reflection that is celebrated in many parts of the world, but especially in Singapore, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and other Southeast Asian countries.

You do not need to be a Buddhist to celebrate Vesak. In 1999, the UN officially recognized Vesak Day and the contribution that Buddhism has made to spirituality and humanity.

Answer the questions with information from the text.

1. When is Vesak celebrated and why?

2. What do Buddhists reaffirm their commitment to on Vesak Day?

3. What don't Buddhists do at Vesak?

4. Where do Buddhists go on Vesak Day and what do they do there?



The Buddhist flag was created in 1880 in Sri Lanka and is now used by Buddhists all over the world, especially on festival days. The colours on the vertical stripes of the flag represent the different kinds of light that came from parts of the Buddha's body (his 'aura') after he achieved enlightenment. The final stripe, which combines all five colours, symbolises the truth of the Buddha's teachings.

B. Read the descriptions and write the colours of the Buddhist flag next to the things you think they symbolise.

Discuss your choices with a partner. Do these colours represent or symbolise anything for you?

orange	yellow/gold	blue	white	red
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This colour of light came from the Buddha's teeth and bones and symbolises purity.

This colour of light came from the Buddha's flesh and symbolises the blessings that practising the Buddha's teaching brings. _____

This colour of light came from the Buddha's palms, heels and lips and symbolises wisdom.

This colour of light came from the Buddha's skin and symbolises the 'Middle Path' and balance (avoiding extremes). _____

This colour of light came from the Buddha's hair and symbolises compassion for all beings.

Answer Key

Activity 1: Fake News

B.

1. The text is designed to inform and explain about how fake news spreads.
2. The audience for the text might be social media users. It might be found as part of a digital literacy course, as it highlights some online behaviour that leads to spreading fake news. Alternatively, it may be a general interest article.

C.

1. What makes a bot effective at sharing fake news? Bots learn from interaction patterns, so they become more efficient. Also, they can share information on a large scale, and repetitively.
2. How might users within our social network contribute to our confirmation bias? The text mentions how we share information that confirms our own beliefs. In turn, people who have the same beliefs as us will trust and share the information that we share. This reaffirms our own ideas, contributing to our bias.
3. How might being trolled result in you sharing fake news? The text mentions that emotional responses are often done without thinking ('in the heat of the moment'), meaning we might not scrutinise/check the reliability of what we share.
4. What is the real-world impact of microtargeting? The article mentions that microtargeting can be used during political campaigns. Data from social media can be used to target specific groups or potential voters.

E.

1. Why do you think some people still try to discredit the moon landings?
2. Do you think politicians are manipulative? Why / Why not?
3. Do you know how algorithms work?
4. Why are elderly people more vulnerable to illness?
5. Are you prone to making mistakes when ... (driving / speaking English / writing essays / etc)?
6. Have you ever read anything dubious online? If so, what?
7. Do you think you are in an echo chamber on social media?
8. Do you have confirmation bias sometimes?
9. Do you get bombarded with spam emails or do you have a good spam filter?

Activity 2: International Worker's Day

A.

1. banners; 2. achievements; 3. rights; 4. strike; 5. opened fire; 6. sentenced; 7. conspiracy; 8. spurred; 9. loyalty; 10. solidarity; 11. elaborate; 12. parade

B.

1. 1978

2. The Second International, in 1889.

3. Strike action across the USA saw between 300,000 and half a million strikers go on strike. Strikers and strike-breakers fought and police opened fire killing at least two protesters. Others were arrested and sentenced to death or many years in prison.

4. Trade unions and labour movements.

5. March through the streets holding banners in support of workers, labourers, and working classes in general. It is also often a day of protests.

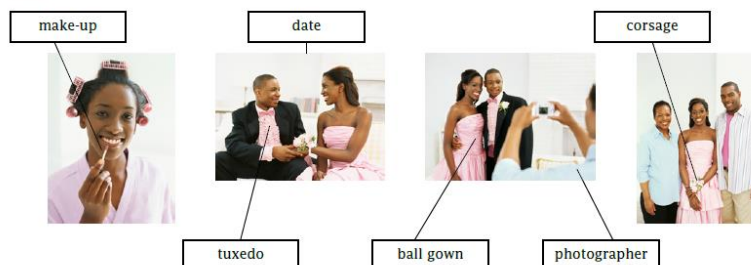
6. In communist countries.

7. In 1958 US president Eisenhower officially declared May 1st was Loyalty Day in the US. During the Cold War the US wanted to encourage its citizens to show their loyalty to their own country on May 1st, instead of showing solidarity with workers in communist countries.

Activity 3: Prom Night

A.

Key:



B.

1. pinnacle; 2. graduation; 3. adequate; 4. sumptuous; 5. topped; 6. peers; 7. extra-curricular; 8. parading; 9. permissive; 10. Uncool

C.

1. False, it has now spread to other countries around the world.
2. False, they originated in the late 19th century.
3. True.
4. False, it celebrates graduation from high school (regardless of whether the students go on to college or not).
5. False, the prom king and queen are elected by other students in their school year as well as their teachers.
6. True.

D.

1. a rite of passage
2. the night is still young
3. booming post-war economy
4. pave the way
5. do away with (something)
6. shoulder the costs

Activity 4: Kwanzaa

C.

1. principles; 2. contemplative; 3. pledge; 4. position; 5. alienated; 6. collective; 7. righteousness; 8. heritage; 9. Unity

D.

1. False. Kwanzaa is the name of a cultural (non-religious) celebration mostly celebrated in the USA.
2. False. It is mostly celebrated by black Americans, but the events and celebrations are open to anyone who would like to join in.
3. True.
4. False. Kwanzaa was created just over 50 years ago by Maulana Karenga.
5. True.

6. False. Kwanza (with six letters) is part of a Swahili phrase, matunda ya kwanza, which means first fruits (of the harvest).

Activity 5: Shrove Tuesday

A.

1. b; 2. a; 3. B

B.

1. determined; 2. fall; 3. confess; 4. sins; 5. fasting; 6. indulgences; 7. The Commonwealth; 8. mass; 9. contestant; 10. toss; 11. peers; 12. Charity

C.

1. In February or March, on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday which is the start of the Christian time of Lent, which leads up to Easter. Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday. The moveable date of Easter Sunday determines its exact date.

2. 'Shrove' comes from the old English word 'shrive' meaning to confess your sins to a priest.

3. During Lent, people are supposed to give up certain indulgences and start fasting. Eggs, milk and flour were luxury food items that people would use up on Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes – providing one last indulgent feast before fasting until Easter.

4. In 1445 a woman heard the church bells ringing on Shrove Tuesday morning. She was still making pancakes at the time, but she didn't want to be late for mass. She ran as fast as she could to the church while still carrying her pan with a pancake in it. This developed into the tradition of pancake races. Today, many villages and towns in the UK hold pancake races in which people race each other through the streets while carrying (and tossing) pancakes in frying pans.

D.

lost track of time

Activity 6 - Diwali

A.

 <p>Lights and lamps Day 2</p>	 <p>Rangoli Day 2</p>
 <p>Brothers visiting sisters Day 5</p>	 <p>Giving gifts Day 4</p>
 <p>Cleaning and decorating the home Day 1</p>	 <p>Buying kitchen items, new clothes and gold or silver Day 1</p>
 <p>Fireworks and firecrackers Day 3</p>	 <p>Family parties Day 3</p>

B.

1. significant; 2. despair; 3. consequently; 4. glow; 5. held captive; 6. coincide; 7. utensils; 8. prosperity; 9. dedicated to; 10. lavish; 11. bond; 12. Peak

Activity 7: Hanukkah

A.

a2, b1, c5, d4, e3

B.

1. Over 2,000 years ago in a temple in Jerusalem.
2. The Seleucids (Syrian-Greeks).
3. Judah.

4. Although there was only enough holy oil to light the candle for one day, it lasted for eight days.
5. (Holy purified) olive oil.

C.

1. miracle
2. rule
3. force
4. defeat
5. reclaim
6. recite
7. synagogue
8. foil

Activity 8: Krampusnacht

A.

1. mythical; 2. demon; 3. birch; 4. matted; 5. suppressed; 6. sentenced to death; 7. banality; 8. pop culture; 9. commercials; 10. colloquially; 11. folklore spectacle; 12. code of conduct

B.

1. Austria in particular, especially in Alpine villages, but also from the surrounding mountainous (Alpine & Tyrolean) regions in Germany, Italy, the Czech Republic and Hungary.
2. There have been times in history when Krampus celebrations were forbidden by the church and by the governments of the day, e.g. during the time of the Spanish Inquisition, and during the second world war.
3. It is the after-dark Krampuslauf, in which young men dress up in Krampus costumes and masks and run through the fire-lit streets scaring onlookers.
4. They are fed up with the banality and commercialism connected with Christmas today and are looking for something more 'real' and exciting. Also, Krampus has become increasingly known around the world via his inclusion in pop culture.

Activity 9: Dragon Boat Festival

B.

1.

a. Qu Yuan.

b. 278 BC

c. He committed suicide by drowning himself in the Miluo River.

d. He couldn't bear the knowledge that the capital of Chu, where he had been a minister for the king, had fallen to the Qin army.

2. Zongzi are rice dumplings. Villagers threw rice dumplings into the river after they were unable to save Qu Yuan as an offering to his spirit and to keep evil spirits and fish away. The villagers raced along the river in their boats beating drums to frighten the evil spirits. This is reflected in today's Dragon Boat Race, in which the fierce dragons and drumming symbolically ward off evil spirits. The herbs also keep evil spirits away.

Activity 10: Vesak Day

A.

1. On the day of the first full moon in May. According to Buddhist scriptures the three most important events in the life of the Buddha happened on the first full moon in May: being born, obtaining enlightenment and dying, or passing into Nirvana.

2. Their commitment to Buddha and his teachings and to living a moral and compassionate lifestyle.

3. Eat meat or allow animals to be killed for their meat.

4. They go to the temple, raise the Buddhist flag, chant, sing hymns, meditate, listen to sermons, lay flowers, burn incense and light candles. After sunset, colourful lanterns are often released into the dark night sky.

B.

White – This colour of light came from the Buddha's teeth and bones and symbolises purity.

Red – This colour of light came from the Buddha's flesh and symbolises the blessings that practicing the Buddha's teaching brings.

Orange – This colour of light came from the Buddha's palms, heels and lips and symbolises wisdom.

Yellow/gold – This colour of light came from the Buddha's skin and symbolises the 'Middle Path' and balance (avoiding extremes).

Blue – This colour of light came from the Buddha's hair and symbolises compassion for all beings