

Festivals in different countries of the world

Halloween, United States: Every year on October 31, Peter and his friends dress up in costumes, for example, as a witch or a ghost. In the evening they go from door to door in the neighborhood and collect candy. The origin of Halloween goes back to the Celts, a tribe in Europe. They believed that on this day, the spirits of the dead come to the earth and steal their souls. They tried to drive off the spirits with scary masks.



Coon Carnival, South Africa: Ben lives in Cape Town. Every year on January 2, a large carnival parade takes place in his home town. Ben and his friends also watch the colorful parade, with loud singing and lots of dancing. In the past, only slaves celebrated this festival to start the new year, because they had to work on New Year's Eve.

New Year's Festival, China: Tao looks forward to the New Year's Festival. The new year begins with a new moon between January 21 and February 21. Relatives that he otherwise sees only once a year come to visit at that time. Many of them stay with his family for two weeks, until the end of the festival. His mother decorates the house in red, because red is the symbol for good fortune and wealth. By the way, 2012 was the year of the dragon.



Oktoberfest, Germany: Anna lives in Munich. She likes to go to the Oktoberfest, which takes place every year in late September. She eats cotton candy and rides a merry-go-round. She has also been to an Oktoberfest beer tent with her parents. The first Oktoberfest took place over 200 years ago, on the occasion of the wedding of the Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese.

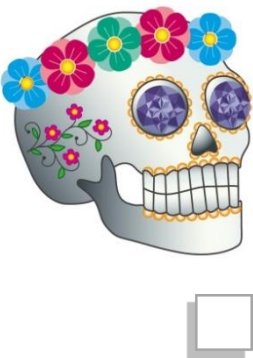


St. Patrick's Day, Ireland: Jack comes from Dublin. Once a year, on March 17, he dresses completely in green and paints a shamrock on his cheek. That's because it is St. Patrick's Day, the national Irish holiday. It is celebrated to remember the anniversary of the death of St. Patrick, who took the Christian faith to Ireland.



Hanami (Cherry Blossom Festival), Japan: Yoko lives in Tokyo. Every year she looks forward to the cherry blossoms, which bloom between late March and early May. That's when the Hanami festival takes place, to celebrate the beauty of the blooming cherry blossoms. Yoko spends the time with her family in the park under the cherry trees. They eat, drink, and play music together.

Incwala (Festival of the First Fruits), Swaziland: The Incwala festival is very special to Masia. In December or January, the Swazis, an African tribe, dance and sing in traditional dress for four days. A secret ceremony takes place at the end, when the king eats the first fruits of the new harvest. The Incwala festival rings in the new harvest year.



Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), Mexico: Salma celebrates the Mexican festival of the dead on November 2. The Mexicans believe that the souls of the dead visit the living on this day. Salma spends the afternoon with her family at the cemetery, at her grandparents' grave. There they have a big picnic. Everywhere in the streets one can see "calaveras," which are skeletons made from paper-mache, clay, or sugar icing.

Assignment: Match the continents to the festivals.

1

Asia

2

Europe

3

Africa

4

America