

## 16. BRITISH HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS

TASK 1. Match the pictures with the names of the holidays or festivals.



1.



2.



3.



4.



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10.



11.



12.



13.

Boxing Day / December 26  
 Bonfire Night / November 5  
 Burns' Night / January 25  
 Christmas / December 25  
 Easter  
 An Eisteddfod  
 Halloween / October 31  
 May Day / May 1  
 The Notting Hill Carnival  
 The Queen's Birthday  
 Remembrance Day / November 11  
 Shakespeare's Day / April 23  
 St. Patrick's Day / March 17

**TASK 2. Match the name of the festival with its description.**

1. Burns' Night	A. ... is a selected day on which the birthday of the monarch of the Commonwealth realms is celebrated in those countries.
2. An Eisteddfod	B. ... commemorates the arrival of Christianity in Ireland as well as celebrating the heritage and culture of the Irish in general.
3. The Notting Hill Carnival	C. ... typically includes <i>haggis</i> (a traditional Scottish dish), whisky, and the recitation of Burns' poetry; also called Burns' supper.
4. The Queen's Official Birthday	D. ... is a Welsh festival of literature, music and performance; a meeting of artists dating back to the 12th century.
5. Shakespeare's Day	E. ... is an annual 3-day event taking place in London, in August, which is led by members of the West Indian community.
6. St. Patrick's Day	F. ... is a tribute to the great poet and dramatist and thousands of tourists go each year to see his plays performed in Stratford-upon-Avon, where he was born.

**TASK 3. Read the sentences and group them according to which holiday they refer to.**

NAME OF THE HOLIDAY	SENTENCE NUMBER
Boxing Day	
Bonfire Night	
Christmas	
Easter	
Halloween	
May Day	
Remembrance Day	

1. Celebrations include Morris dancing, Maypole dancing and crowning a May Queen.
2. Every year the people of Norway give the city of London a present – a big Christmas tree which is put up in Trafalgar Square.
3. Guy Fawkes Night, or Bonfire Night goes back to the days of King James I when Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament, but was arrested and hanged.
4. Halloween goes back many hundreds of years. Nowadays children in Britain dress up as witches and ghosts. Some children also make lamps out of pumpkins.
5. In many churches, a live rabbit representing the Easter Bunny is brought into the congregation, especially for the children's message.
6. In the evening, the children go out and knock at neighbours' doors calling out "Trick or treat". Most people give children a treat: a sweet or a chocolate or a toffee apple.
7. May the 1<sup>st</sup> is an ancient Northern Hemisphere spring festival. May Day continues the pagan Anglo-Saxon customs and Celtic traditions.
8. Most people go to church services on this day and exchange chocolate Easter eggs.
9. The poppy is the symbol of this day and Remembrance Day is often called Poppy Day.
10. Roast turkey and Christmas pudding is a must for the traditional Christmas dinner.
11. Since that time, on the 5th of November, people burn the dummy of Guy Fawkes made of straw on their bonfires.
12. This day takes its name from the old custom of giving workers an annual present by their employers which was packed in a box.
13. This is an occasion when Brits remember all the dead from both World Wars and other conflicts which have happened since.
14. Today this is the time to visit family and friends and exchange presents.

Adapted from: <http://www.profistart.ru/ps/blog/20957.html>

Adapted from: <http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/xmas/boxingday.html>

**TASK 4. Complete the sentences. Use the words given below.**

1. May Day is a traditional spring festival which coincides with International \_\_\_\_\_ Day.
2. Robert Burns was a famous \_\_\_\_\_ poet.
3. The Eisteddfod festival offers taster sessions of the \_\_\_\_\_ language.
4. The poppy flower is the symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ Day.
5. The Queen's birthday is celebrated in all \_\_\_\_\_ countries.
6. The shamrock is the \_\_\_\_\_ national flower.
7. The 'UK' is an abbreviation for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and \_\_\_\_\_ Ireland.

**Commonwealth   Irish   Labour   Northern   Remembrance   Scottish   Welsh**

## ANSWERS

### 16. BRITISH HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS

#### TASK 1.

1. The Queen's Birthday
2. Halloween
3. The Notting Hill Carnival
4. Easter
5. Christmas
6. May Day
7. Shakespeare's Day
8. Remembrance Day
9. Boxing Day
10. Burns' Night
11. Bonfire Night
12. Eisteddfod
13. St. Patrick's Day

#### TASK 2.

1. Burns' Night typically includes haggis (a traditional Scottish dish), whisky and the recitation of Burns' poetry; also called Burns' supper.
2. An Eisteddfod is a Welsh festival of literature, music and performance; a meeting of artists dating back to the 12th century.
3. The Notting Hill Carnival is an annual 3-day event taking place in London, in August, which is led by members of the West Indian community.
4. The Queen's Official Birthday is a selected day on which the birthday of the monarch of the Commonwealth realms is celebrated in those countries.
5. Shakespeare's Day is a tribute to the great poet and dramatist and thousands of tourists go each year to see his plays performed in Stratford-upon-Avon where he was born.
6. St. Patrick's Day commemorates the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, as well as celebrating the heritage and culture of the Irish in general.

#### TASK 3.

Boxing Day / 12, 14

Bonfire Night / 3, 11

Christmas / 2, 10

Easter / 5, 8

Halloween / 4, 6

May Day / 1, 7

Remembrance Day / 9, 13

#### TASK 4.

1. May Day is a traditional spring festival which coincides with International Labour Day.
2. Robert Burns was a famous Scottish poet.
3. The Eisteddfod festival offers taster sessions of the Welsh language.
4. The poppy is the symbol of Remembrance Day.
5. The Queen's birthday is celebrated in all Commonwealth countries.
6. The shamrock is the Irish national flower.
7. UK is an abbreviation for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.