

# **How Americans Celebrate**

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# Table of Contents

Introduction . . . . .	4
Birthdays . . . . .	5
Civic Days . . . . .	6
Ethnic Holidays . . . . .	8
Legal Holidays . . . . .	9
Religious Holidays . . . . .	10
Special Days . . . . .	11
Special Weeks . . . . .	12
Special Months . . . . .	13
Uses of the Book . . . . .	14
Whole Year . . . . .	15
You Are My Students . . . . .	15
Mathematics . . . . .	16
Earthquakes . . . . .	17
Drugs . . . . .	18
Birthdays . . . . .	19
Days of the Week . . . . .	20
Libraries . . . . .	22
Classmates . . . . .	23
January . . . . .	25
New Years Day - January 1 . . . . .	25
February . . . . .	26
Presidents Day - Third Monday of February . . . . .	26
Valentines Day - February 14 . . . . .	27
Leap Year - February 29 . . . . .	29
March . . . . .	30
California Arbor Day - March 7 . . . . .	30
St. Patrick's Day - March 17 . . . . .	34
April . . . . .	36
Income Tax Due Date - April 15 . . . . .	36
Earth Day - April 21 . . . . .	38
May . . . . .	41
May Day - May 1 . . . . .	41
Mother's Day - third Sunday of May . . . . .	42
Memorial Day - May 30, celebrated on the last Monday of May . . . . .	43
June . . . . .	45
Father's Day - third Sunday of June . . . . .	45
Summer Solstice - June 21 or 22 . . . . .	48
July . . . . .	49
Independence Day - July 4 . . . . .	49
September . . . . .	52
Labor Day - first Monday in September . . . . .	52
Grandparents Day - second Sunday in September . . . . .	60

October . . . . .	62
Columbus Day - October 12, second Monday of October . . . . .	62
United Nations Day - October 24 . . . . .	66
Halloween - October 31 . . . . .	68
November . . . . .	70
Veterans Day - November 11 . . . . .	70
Thanksgiving - fourth Thursday in November . . . . .	72
December . . . . .	73
Christmas - December 25 . . . . .	73
New Years Eve - December 31 . . . . .	76
Bibliography . . . . .	77
Texts . . . . .	77
Books on Days and Holidays . . . . .	78
Dictionaries . . . . .	79
ESL Texts on Holidays . . . . .	80
Biography . . . . .	81
U.S. History . . . . .	82
Music . . . . .	83

## **Introduction**

How do Americans Celebrate? They celebrate birthdays, civic days, ethnic holidays, legal holidays, religious holidays, special days, special weeks, and special months.

## *Birthdays*

For example, the following men and women represent Hawaiians, Native Americans, African Americans, European Americans, inventors, presidents, ministers, suffragists, scientists, humorists, writers, workers for human rights, environmentalists, former slaves, architects, social workers, artists, nurses, jazz musicians, and aviators, who have contributed to the quality of the nation. We recognize them and their work on their birthdays.

In January, Benjamin Franklin, Franklin Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, and Julia Morgan.

In February, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, George Washington, and Thomas Alva Edison.

In March, Alexander Graham Bell, Albert Einstein, and George Washington Carver.

In April, Thomas Jefferson, Charles Chaplin, and John Muir.

In May, John F. Kennedy, Rachel Carson, and Harriet Tubman.

In June, Frank Lloyd Wright, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Pearl Buck.

In July, Louis Armstrong, Amelia Earhart, and Eli Whitney.

In August, Wilbur and Orville Wright, Sacagawea, and Neil Armstrong.

In September, Chief Joseph and Jane Addams.

In October, Marie Curie, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Mark Twain.

In November, Georgia O'Keefe, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Will Rogers, and Louisa May Alcott.

In December, Clara Barton, Kamehameha, and Eli Whitney.

Many other Americans are remembered on their birthdays.

## *Civic Days*

The world, the nation, the states, and cities and counties have civic days, during which important events occur for citizens. The following examples illustrate the variety of events.

In January, Inauguration Day.

In February, Presidents' Day.

In April, Pan American Day and Income Tax Due Date.

In May, Memorial Day.

In June, Flag Day.

In September, Citizenship Day, Constitution Day, and California Admission Day.

In October, United Nations' Day and Columbus Day.

In November, Election Day and Veterans' Day.

In December, U.N. Human Rights Day.

Civic days include the date when each state of the Union entered the United States of America. The following indicates these dates.

In January, New Mexico 1/6/1912 (47th), Connecticut 1/9/1788 (5th), Alaska 1/3/1959 (49th), Utah 1/4/1896 (45th), Kansas 1/29/1861 (34th), Georgia 1/2/1788 (4th), Michigan 1/26/1837 (26th).

In February, Massachusetts 2/6/1788 (6th), Oregon 2/14/1859 (33rd), Arizona 2/14/1912 (48th).  
In March, Vermont 3/4/1791 (14th), Maine 3/15/1820 (23rd), Nebraska 3/1/1867 (37th), Florida 3/3/1845 (27th), Ohio 3/1/1803 (17th).

In April, Maryland 4/28/1788 (7th), Louisiana 4/30/1812 (18th).

In May, South Carolina 5/23/1788 (8th), Wisconsin 5/29/1848 (30th), Minnesota 5/11/1858 (32nd), Rhode Island 5/29/1790 (13th).

In June, New Hampshire 6/21/1788 (9th), Virginia 6/25/1788 (10th), West Virginia 6/20/1863 (35th), Arkansas 6/15/1836 (25th), Kentucky 6/1/1792 (15th), Tennessee 6/1/1796 (16th).

In July, New York 7/26/1788 (11th), Idaho 7/3/1890 (43rd), Wyoming 7/10/1890 (44th).

In August, Colorado 8/1/1876 (38th), Missouri 8/10/1821 (24th), Hawaii 8/21/1959 (50th).

In September, California 9/9/1850 (31st).

In October, Nevada 10/31/1864 (36th).

In November, North Carolina 11/21/1789 (12th), North Dakota 11/2/1889 (39th), Oklahoma 11/16/1907 (46th), South Dakota 11/2/1889 (40th), Montana 11/8/1889 (41st), Washington 11/11/1889 (42nd).

In December, Delaware 12/7/1787 (1st), Texas 12/29/1845 (28th), New Jersey 12/18/1787 (3rd), Pennsylvania 12/12/1787 (2nd), Alabama 12/14/1819 (22nd), Mississippi 12/10/1817 (20th), Indiana 12/11/1816 (19th), Illinois 12/3/1818 (21st), Iowa 12/28/1846 (29th).

## *Ethnic Holidays*

America has many ethnic communities, which celebrate festivals in which all persons can share. Everyone recognizes the following ethnic holidays.

In February, Chinese New Year and Mardi Gras.

In March, St. Patrick's Day.

## ***Legal Holidays***

The nation has legal holidays set aside to commemorate people or events.

In January, Martin Luther King Day.

In February, Presidents' Day.

In May, Memorial Day.

In July, Independence Day.

In September, Labor Day.

In October, Columbus Day.

In November: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day.

In December, Christmas Day.

## ***Religious Holidays***

The holy days of the world religions, such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Baha'i Faith, Hinduism, and Buddhism, are celebrated by Americans.

## *Special Days*

America has many fun holidays to celebrate family and places.

In January, New Year's Day.

In February, Valentine's Day.

In March, International Women's Day and Arbor Day.

In April, April Fool's Day, Earth Day, and Take Our Daughters to Work Day.

In May, May Day and Mother's Day.

In June, Father's Day and Children's Day.

In September, Grandparents Day.

In October, Halloween.

In December, New Year's Eve.

America celebrates the beginnings of the seasons, at the autumnal equinox, winter solstice, vernal equinox, and summer solstice.

## *Special Weeks*

America has weeks in which to celebrate family and places, such as Library Week, Constitution Week, and American Education Week.

## *Special Months*

America has months in which to celebrate family and places, such as Black History Month and Women's History Month.

This book has activities to help students learning English as a Second Language to celebrate many of America's holidays.

## Uses of the Book

This book can help new users of the English language at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels to become acclimated to American culture and customs. It is intended as a set of supplementary activities to promote thinking in English, using traditional American celebrations. Activities are provided for each month of the year. The pages are reproducible, so that no texts are needed for students. No teacher's manual is provided since the activities are self-explanatory.

In particular, this book includes a generous selection of songs and poems. Singing together allows students to be less self-conscious, increases class camaraderie, and helps students learn English rhythm and rhyme. Students are encouraged to create their own lyrics for the melody.

Students can also compare the manners, customs, and history of the United States with practices in their former countries, and thereby gain a better understanding of their new country. Other multicultural activities can include writing greetings in other languages and alphabets, tallying the numbers of students from each country, and using a world map to find the locations of the student's former countries.

The teacher can expand on the topics here. For example, students could describe, bring, or eat their favorite American and other foods. The teacher could also use the book as a means to examine human, social, and political themes. The book might be useful in a citizenship class.

A bibliography suggests other ways in which the goal of multicultural respect can be encouraged and developed.

## **Whole Year**

### ***You Are My Students***

You Are My Students!

by Ida Lewenstein

(based on the song “You Are My Sunshine”)

You are my students

My only students.

Oh, how I wish you'd come each day.

When students DON'T come,

I get so lonesome.

PLEASE, don't YOU stay AWAY.

You are my students

My only students,

You make me happy, when you come each day.

You won't learn English,

If you don't practice.

So, please DO SPEAK ENGLISH EVERYDAY.

## ***Mathematics***

### **Vocabulary - Addition**

Nouns: addition, addend, sum, total.

Verbs: add to, sum, total.

Preposition: two plus two is four.

Conjunction: two and two are four.

Sign:  $2 + 2 = 4$ .

### **Vocabulary - Subtraction**

Nouns: subtraction, minuend, subtrahend, difference, remainder.

Verbs: subtract from, take away.

Prepositions: four minus two is two; two from four leaves two.

Sign:  $4 - 2 = 2$ .

### **Vocabulary - Multiplication**

Nouns: multiplication, multiplicand, multiplier, product.

Verbs: multiply by, times.

Prepositions: two times two is four.

Sign:  $2 \times 2 = 4$  or  $2 * 2 = 4$ .

### **Vocabulary - Division**

Nouns: division, quotient, divisor, dividend.

Verbs: divide by, goes into.

Prepositions: two goes into four two times.

Sign:  $4 / 2 = 2$ .

### **Vocabulary - General**

Nouns: result, answer.

Verbs: is, are, leaves, equals, results in.

## *Earthquakes*

### **Vocabulary - Earthquake Preparedness**

appliances  
appropriate  
chimney  
cloudy  
crescent wrench  
debris  
designate  
disaster  
disinfectant  
dosage  
duck  
extinguisher  
hazard  
manual  
medications  
oral thermometer  
prescription  
reaction  
rectal thermometer  
secure  
shutoff  
spring wound  
sterilized gauze pad  
survival  
turn off  
turn on  
tweezers  
utility lines

## *Drugs*

### **Discussion Topics**

1. What are your solutions to the problem of stopping drug trafficking
2. What produce can the Latino farmers grow instead of the cocaine plant that will make as much money for them?
3. What can the United States do to reduce and finally eliminate the market and the demand for cocaine here?
4. Should the United States use military force on land, sea, and air in patrolling its borders to prevent drugs entering this country?
5. Should the sale of drugs such as marijuana, heroin, and cocaine be legalized in the U.S.?

## ***Birthdays***

### Topics of Conversation

Where did you go on your birthday? The day of my birthday, my son and I went to the restaurant and ate a delicious lunch. I liked it very much.

What did you drink with your lunch? I drank red wine.

What did you eat for lunch? I ate many things from the buffet.

What did your son give you as a birthday present? He gave me a large, color TV.

What size is your TV? It has a 24-inch screen.

What kind of TV did your son give you? I don't know. I will tell you tomorrow.

Did you have a happy birthday? Yes, it was a very happy birthday. I have a good and loving son.

## *Days of the Week*

### **The Days of the Week Song**

Today is Monday; today is Monday.  
Monday wash your clothes.  
Is everybody happy? Well, I should say!

Today is Tuesday; today is Tuesday.  
Tuesday, iron your shirt.  
Monday wash your clothes.  
Is everybody happy? Well, I should say!

Today is Wednesday; today is Wednesday.  
Wednesday go shopping.  
Tuesday iron your dress.  
Monday wash your clothes.  
Is everybody happy? Well, I should say!

Today is Thursday; today is Thursday.  
Thursday go to school.  
Wednesday go shopping.  
Tuesday iron your shirt.  
Monday wash your clothes.  
Is everybody happy? Well, I should say!

Today is Friday; today is Friday.  
Friday clean your house.  
Thursday go to school.  
Wednesday go shopping.  
Tuesday iron your shirt.  
Monday wash your clothes.  
Is everybody happy? Well, I should say.

Today is Saturday; today is Saturday.  
Saturday buy some groceries.  
Friday clean your house,  
Thursday go to school.  
Wednesday go shopping.  
Tuesday iron your shirt.  
Monday wash your clothes.  
Is everybody happy? Well, I should say.

Today is Sunday; today is Sunday.

Sunday go to church.  
Saturday buy some groceries.  
Friday clean your house.  
Thursday go to school.  
Wednesday go shopping.  
Tuesday iron your shirt.  
Monday wash your clothes.  
Is everybody happy? Well, I should say.

1. Write verses about other things you do during the days of the week: eat lunch, go dancing, listen to music, watch TV, read the newspaper, wash the car, write a letter, pay your bills, telephone your friend, go to the doctor.

## ***Libraries***

### **Questions**

How many libraries do we have in this city?

Is the library open in the mornings?

What days is the library open?

Is the library open on Saturdays?

What information does the librarian need to process your library card?

What kinds of books do the libraries provide?

Does the library have magazines and books from other countries? Can art prints be borrowed?

What is the loan period for videocassettes?

What is the loan period for most books?

Can books, tapes, and magazines be renewed over the telephone?

How many books on one subject can be borrowed at one time?

What is the overdue fine per day?

Besides the price of the magazine what is the fine for losing it?

If a person cannot read English, will the library provide a tutor to teach this person for free?

Does the library have computers available for library patrons?

Can a person call the library to get some important information?

Besides books, what other services are there for children?

## *Classmates*

### **Questions**

How far away is your country?

Do you speak: Spanish, French, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese?

What sports do you like? baseball, soccer, tennis, ping pong, foot ball, dancing.

How old are you?

What kind of music do you listen to? classical, rock, blues, Mexican.

What do you look at on TV?

How tall are you?

What color are your eyes?

What color is your hair?

Do you have a daughter?

Do you have a son?

For each of the following categories, put the name of one fellow student. Try to find thirteen different students.

farthest country

nearest country

sport

music

tallest

shortest

oldest

youngest

hair color

eye color

son

daughter

language

# **January**

## ***New Years Day - January 1***

January is named for the Roman god Janus. He is the god of beginnings and endings, of gates and doors, and of two faces. One watched the old year go out, the other faced the new year coming in.

(See December 31, New Years Eve.)

## **February**

### ***Presidents Day - Third Monday of February***

#### **February 12 - Lincoln's Birthday**

Are You Easily Discouraged? Think about a man who:

- Failed in business in 1831.
- Was defeated for the Illinois legislature in 1832.
- Failed in business again in 1834.
- Had his sweetheart die in 1835.
- Suffered a nervous breakdown in 1836.
- Was defeated in an election again in 1838.
- Was defeated again for a seat in Congress in 1843.
- Was defeated again in 1846.
- Was defeated again in 1848.
- Was defeated for a seat in the U. S. Senate in 1855.
- Was defeated for the Vice Presidency of the United States in 1856.
- Was defeated again for the U.S. Senate in 1858.

Maybe he was discouraged, but he persisted.

He was elected President of the United States in 1860.

Who was he? ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

What motto does his life represent?

IF YOU FIRST DON'T SUCCEED, TRY, TRY AGAIN.

## ***Valentines Day - February 14***

### **I Gave My Love a Cherry**

I gave my love a cherry that has no stones.  
I gave my love a chicken that has no bones.  
I gave my love a ring that has no end,  
I gave my love a baby that's no cryin'.

How can there be a cherry without no stone,  
How can there be a chicken that has no bone,  
How can there be a ring that has no end,  
How can there be a baby with no cryin'?

A cherry when it's blooming, it has no stone,  
A chicken when it's pipping, it has no bone,  
A ring when it's rolling, it has no end,  
A baby when it's sleeping, there's no cryin'.

### **Roses Are Red**

Roses are red  
Violets are blue,  
Sugar is sweet,  
And so are you.

### **Sure As the Vine**

Sure as the vine  
Grows 'round the stump  
You are my darling sugar lump.

### **Sonnet 43 by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, 1836**

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.  
I love thee to the level of everyday's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.

I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints,  
I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life!  
and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.

### **My Funny Valentine**

My funny valentine, sweet comic valentine,  
You make me smile with my heart.  
You're looks are laughable, unphotographable,  
Yet you're my favorite work of art.  
Is your figure less than Greek?  
Is your mouth a little weak,  
When you open it to speak?  
Are you smart?  
But don't change a hair for me,  
Not if you care for me.  
Stay little Valentine stay,  
Each day is Valentine's Day.

### **Sonnet 130 by William Shakespeare, 1609**

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;  
Coral is far more red than her lips' red;  
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;  
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.  
I have seen roses damask'd, red and white,  
But no such roses see I in her cheeks,  
And in some perfumes is there more delight  
than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.  
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know  
That music hath a far more pleasing sound;  
I grant I never saw a goddess go;  
My mistress when she walks treads on the ground.  
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare  
As any she belied with false compare.

1. Do you see any similarity in the idea of the song "My Funny Valentine" and "Sonnet 130"?  
One is a sentimental song, and one is a great poem, but both express love ironically.

## ***Leap Year - February 29***

A day is 24 hours long between the rising and the setting of the sun. Noon is when the sun is highest in the sky. Midnight is when the night is the darkest.

But it takes the Earth 365.25636 days to go completely around the sun in one year. The problem is what to do with that extra 0.25636 day more than 365. The Gregorian Calendar, every four years, adds an extra day to the 365, resulting in 366 days or Leap Year. This day is added to the regular 28 days of February. Almost every government in the world has now accepted this type of 52-week year divided into 12 months.

One way to remember which months have 30 days and which have 31 days is to learn this rhyme:

Thirty days has September,  
April, June, and November.  
All the rest have thirty-one,  
Except for February alone,  
Which usually has 28,  
but in Leap Year 29.

But what about those people who are born on February 29? They will have a birthday only once every four years!

1. How many minutes in an hour?
2. How many hours in a day?
3. When is the sun highest in the sky?
4. When is the darkest time of night?
5. How many days make one year?
6. Leap Year comes every how many years?
7. To what month is the extra day added?
8. In Leap Year, February has how many days?
9. People who are born on this date are happy, because they are 1/4 (one-fourth) younger than every one else. What do you think about that?

## March

### *California Arbor Day - March 7*

Trees near your house make it look more beautiful. Your neighbors will also want to plant trees. Trees will increase the value of your property. Trees planted along highways will reduce the noise of traffic by 50%. All the oxygen we breathe comes from plants and trees. Trees help to purify the air. They clean the air of dust and smog. Trees attract birds. Birds eat insects, which destroy our plants. If we have more birds, we will need less insecticide. Trees are natural air coolers. One tree can have the cooling effect of ten room-sized air conditioners. A tree shading your roof helps to keep your house cool. Having fruit trees in your neighborhood will perfume the air. One cherry tree can have 200,000 flowers of beauty. Trees provide the material for many homes. 80% of American homes are built from wood. Besides giving us syrup, oils, fruit and nuts to eat, trees help us make all the paper we use. We put maple syrup on our pancakes and olive oil on our salad; eat apples, pears, cherries, plums, lemons, oranges, grapefruit, limes, mangoes and papayas. We love walnuts, almonds, pecans, cashews, and pistachios. A tree can shade us from the hot sun, and it is cooler than wearing a sombrero. A tree can support a rubber tire swing for our children. What fun it is to climb a tree! The world would not be worth living in, without trees.

1. What makes your house look more beautiful?
2. What will increase the value of your property?
3. What will reduce the noise of traffic?
4. Where does the oxygen we breathe come from?
5. How do trees help to purify the air?
6. What destroys insects better than insecticide?
7. What makes your house cooler?
8. What gives us fruit and flowers?
9. What percent of American homes are made of wood?
10. What fruits do trees give us?
11. What nuts do trees give us?
12. What syrup comes from a tree?

13. What is paper made from?
14. What is cooler than a sombrero?
15. What is fun to do in a tree?
16. Would you want to live in a world without trees?
17. What is your favorite tree?
18. What fruit trees grow in your country?
19. What nut trees grow in your country?
20. What material are houses in your country made from?
21. What tree in your country gives the best shade?
22. Are trees planted along the highway in your country to reduce the traffic noise?
23. Have you ever planted a tree?
24. What kind of tree would you like to plant?

### **A Song for Arbor Day**

(to the tune of Oh! Christmas Tree)

Oh! Christmas tree, Oh! Christmas tree,  
How lovely are your branches!  
In beauty green will always grow,  
Through summer sun and winter snow.  
Oh! Christmas tree, Oh! Christmas tree,  
How lovely are your branches

Oh! cherry tree, Oh! cherry tree,  
How lovely are your cherries!  
In beauty red or beauty white  
In spring rains and summer nights.  
Oh! cherry tree, Oh! cherry tree,  
How lovely are your cherries.

Oh! almond tree, Oh! almond tree,  
How lovely are your almonds!  
In beauty brown or beauty white,

In summer heat or autumn bright  
Oh! almond tree, Oh! almond tree,  
How lovely are your almonds.

Oh! redwood tree! Oh! redwood tree,  
Grow tall grow thick your trunk,  
Grow your cones so lovely,  
For a 1,000 years grow more comely.  
Oh! redwood tree! Oh! redwood tree,  
How lovely are your branches.

Oh! LIME tree, Oh! LIME tree,  
How tart are your limes!  
Your fragrance does so fill the air,  
We wish your perfume not so rare,  
Oh! LIME tree, Oh! LIME tree,  
How tart are your limes!

Oh! FIG tree, Oh! FIG tree,  
How sweet are your figs!  
In beauty black and color red,  
By rains and summer's heat well fed,  
Oh! FIG tree, Oh! FIG tree,  
Oh! FIG tree, Oh! FIG tree,  
How sweet are your figs!

Oh! COCONUT, Oh! COCONUT,  
How heavenly are your coconuts!  
Ambrosial is your milk so white,  
Your meat so chewy, bite after bite.  
Oh! COCONUT, Oh! COCONUT,  
How heavenly are your coconuts!

Oh! GUAVA tree, Oh! GUAVA tree,  
How tasty are your guavas!  
Wrapped so smoothly in yellow and green,  
You're so happily to be seen,  
Oh! GUAVA tree, Oh! GUAVA tree,  
How tasty are your guavas!

Oh! APPLE tree, Oh! APPLE tree,  
How juicy are your apples!  
Skins of red and shiny white,  
Growing plump in summer nights.  
Oh! APPLE tree, Oh! APPLE tree,

How juicy are your apples!

Oh! TAMARIND, Oh! TAMARIND,  
How bittersweet your tamarinds!  
Beneath your shade, I day dream  
Along the banks of a flowing stream.  
Oh! TAMARIND, Oh! TAMARIND,  
How bittersweet your tamarinds!

Oh! WALNUT tree, Oh! WALNUT tree,  
How delicious are your walnuts!  
With shells of tan and meat of cream,  
In autumn-time of you we dream.  
Oh! WALNUT tree, Oh! WALNUT tree,  
How delicious are your walnuts!

Oh! AVOCADO, Oh! AVOCADO,  
How creamy are your avocados!  
So yummy in gua-ca-mo-le,  
Makes me grow more ro-ly po-ly,  
Oh! AVOCADO, Oh! AVOCADO,  
How creamy are your avocados!

### **Conservation Questions**

Frederick Jackson Turner's famous hypothesis: "Our national character was indeed shaped by the frontier. But now we must face the cost of destroying God's paradise to erect one of our own devising. How can we best protect our environment for the benefit of our children and grandchildren? Should San Bruno Mountain be developed by constructing condominiums and shopping malls? What plans can we make now that will prepare for the future growth of the Bay Area without destroying its natural beauty? Should highways and freeways be built through our state and national parks? Should we allow oil drilling off the California coast? Should we allow Bay Area water to be diverted to Los Angeles, thus disturbing the ecology of this region's air, water, land, birds and beasts, as well the good life for humans. Should private companies be allowed to cut lumber on public lands? Should 200 to 2000 year old trees in the Headwaters Forest be cut down by Pacific Lumber Co. in order to pay off its debts? Do you think it is right to protect its habitat, in the old growth forests, for a wild creature like the Northern spotted owl? Do you, like the timber industry, see the remaining old redwoods as a crop to be harvested like fruit or vegetables, or like the environmentalists do you see these trees as an ecological treasure to be shared with your children and grandchildren. What do you think John Muir meant by this statement: "Wilderness is a necessity. Mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.

## ***St. Patrick's Day - March 17***

### **The Wearing of the Green**

Oh, Paddy dear, and did you hear the news that's going round?  
The shamrock is forbid by law to grow on Irish ground!  
St. Patrick's Day no more we'll keep, his color can't be seen,  
For there's a bloody law agin' the wearing of the green.  
I met with Napper Tandy, and he took me by the hand.  
And he said, "How's poor old Ireland, and how does she stand?  
She's the most distressful country that ever yet was seen;  
They're hanging men and women there for wearing of the green."  
Then since the color we must wear is England's cruel red,  
Sure Ireland's sons will ne'er forget the blood that they have shed.  
You may take the shamrock from your hat now, cast it on the sod,  
But 'twill take root and flourish still tho' under foot it's trod.  
When the law can stop the blades of green from growing as they grow,  
And when the leaves in summer time their verdure dare not show,  
Then I will change the color that I wear in my canteen;  
But 'till that day, please God, I'll stick to wearing of the green.

### **When Irish Eyes Are Smiling**

When Irish eyes are smiling  
Sure it's like a morn in spring.  
In the lilt of Irish laughter  
You can hear the angels sing

When Irish hearts are happy,  
All the world seems bright and gay

And when Irish eyes are smiling,  
Sure they steal your heart away.

### **Speaking of Green**

Every word or phrase starts with the word green:  
Trees and grass encircling a city is called the green belt.  
Jealous? You're green with envy.  
Your boss has told you your idea is good. He's given you the green light.  
The room where actors get ready to go on stage is called the green room.  
Vermont is called the Green Mountain State.  
Your garden always looks good. You have a green thumb.  
You are new on the job. You're a green horn.



# April

## *Income Tax Due Date - April 15*

### **Vocabulary**

Form W-2 - statement of yearly earnings and withholding, received in January.

Form 1040 E-Z - Form on which to file a simple income tax return.

Form W-4 - (Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate) A form you use to tell an employer how many withholding allowances you can have, so the employer can figure the correct Federal income tax to withhold.

Personal income tax - A tax based on the taxable income that people receive annually. Taxable income is less than total income due to exemptions, adjustments, and deductions.

Public goods and services - Goods and services that are provided by various levels of government.

Tax liability - The total tax to be paid before any tax credits, tax withholding, or estimated tax payments are applied. Taxpayers meet (or pay) their Federal income tax liability through withholding, estimated tax payments, and payments attached to the tax forms they file with the government.

Tax withholding - Money deducted from a payment made to an individual (such as an employee's paycheck) and sent to the government to help meet the individual's tax liability. Employers withhold money for Federal income taxes, Federal Social Security taxes, and state and local income taxes in some states and localities.

Taxes - Required payments of money to governments, which are used to provide public goods and services.

Voluntary compliance - A system of taxation that relies on individual citizens to report their correct income, calculate their tax liability, and file a tax return on time.

### **Questions**

1. The collection of income taxes in the U.S.A. is fair and reasonable.
2. The way the Federal government spends our tax money should be changed. How should it be changed? Why should it be changed? For instance, should a person who does not believe in making war be allowed to say what his taxes should be spent for?

3. The way the State of California spends our tax money should be changed. How? and Why?

4. Discuss the following quotations saying what you think the statement means and whether you agree or disagree with the statement.

"Nothing is sure except death and taxes." Benjamin Franklin, 1789.

"The art of taxation is to pluck out the feathers of the goose without making it squawk."

"The only good tax is an old tax."

"Taxes are what we pay for civilized society." Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1904.

## *Earth Day - April 21*

The complexities involved in finding balanced, equitable, effective, and implementable means of transportation are highlighted when one considers the social options.

Getting to work on time is a major task for all of us. We want to leave home at the latest possible time and get home as fast as possible after work. Our personal independence to be completely mobile is now limited by traffic congestion during morning and afternoon commute hours.

Getting the children to school on time is usually the responsibility of mama and/or the school or municipal bus. Congestion results when most schools open and close at the same hours.

Where are the bedroom suburbs located with respect to where the work is? Is it sensible to commute from Modesto to San Francisco? Of course it is, if you cannot afford a house for your family in the City by the Bay or even on the Peninsula, much less in Marin! But think of the energy consumed, both human and petrochemical.

How many times a week do you hop in the car for a short trip to the Seven-11, to the doctor's, to the post office, or to McDonalds? Couldn't you combine these trips with your weekly grocery shopping to save energy? Will the car manufacturers build cars that get at least 50 miles to a gallon? Will you buy one?

How entrenched is your American lifestyle? Can you give up driving? It costs up to \$4,400 yearly to maintain your vehicle, not to mention the insurance! Can you sacrifice one car? Can your high school and college students give up their wheels? Even if your family has given up smoking, they may still have respiratory problems from breathing the polluted air.

Will you be willing to drive a flex-fuel car, if the service stations provide alternative fuels, such as methanol, ethanol, compressed gas, or natural gas? Burning these "cleaner" fuels could reduce stress on your cardiovascular system, prevent impairing lung function, and save up to a billion dollars in agricultural crop losses. Will you be willing to drive an electric car, going to the trouble of charging up its batteries at home or the service station? Will you maintain your vehicle by regular tune-ups to insure that its tail pipe emissions meet the standard?

If you have gotten used to recycling your bottles and cans, can you get used to doing the same for your old car batteries, for your worn out tires, and for the oil you yourself have changed? Will you make sure that the CFC's in your car's air conditioner are recycled when you have it serviced? Do you keep your tires properly inflated? Do you avoid quick acceleration and deceleration? Do you drive at speeds under 60 mph? Letting "George" and/or "Martha" do these things will not clean up our polluted skies. No pain, no gain. You and I must take the responsibility for our own transportation sins. Blues enough?

The social problems pertaining to congestion, energy, and air pollution are inextricably entwined with the environmental issues. What can be done about growth, land use, and air quality?

Does the American Way mandate that we shall have infinite growth? How many cars can our road system carry? How large a population beyond 230 million can we comfortably house? How many tall office buildings can we allow to block out the sunshine?

How many acres of orchards, vegetables, and grains can we pave over? Should they be replanted with affordable condominiums? Are you willing to accept deconcentration? Will the haves get the land use at the expense of the havenots?

Automobiles and trucks cause the major pollution of air quality in California, forming ozone in the fog that stings the eyes, peels paint, kills vegetation, coats the lungs, and threatens visibility. Transportation is also responsible for about one-third of the nation's carbon monoxide emissions that contribute to global warming. Motor vehicles produce a major share of inhalable particulates as well as nitrogen dioxide. All of the major urban areas of California exceed the state health-based standards.

It is important to note that vehicles pollute the air at different rates during a trip. The most highly polluting portion of a trip occurs at the outset, during the first few minutes of driving.

A short drive to mail a letter or pick up a few groceries results in almost as much pollution as a 310-mile drive to work. ("Moving Right Along", LWV)

Science can help us as well as scare us, but we need to learn what its research has found out. Donald Stedman, a professor of chemistry at the University of Denver, has written that there is a better way to control carbon-monoxide emissions than by using alternative fuels. It is easy and not too expensive: a good tune-up of dirty cars is twice as effective as the use of oxygenated fuels. Air quality can be preserved and hopefully improved by good vehicle maintenance.

Though California has the strictest anti-pollution laws in the country, the new plan passed by the State Air Resources Board last month requires a 35% reduction in Bay Area automotive emissions by 1997. Our Metropolitan Transportation Commission has a deadline of June 1995 to devise a plan to meet the ozone standard of 9 parts per 100 million before 1997.

This measure is meant to reduce hydrocarbon emissions in the state by 28%, or 185 tons per day; nitrogen oxide by 18% or 248 tons per day; carbon monoxide by 8% or 3.17 tons per day. According the San Francisco Examiner, these tough new rules attack two key problems in smog reduction: the need for cleaner-burning fuels and autos with reduced tail pipe emissions.

The plan mandates that cars built between 1994 and 2003 reduce their exhaust pollutants by a 50 to 84% over the standards now set for 1993. Further, "zero-emission" cars, powered by electricity have to be introduced by 1998, with a goal of as many as 200,000 electric cars by 2003.

Oil companies are required to produce alternative fuels. They must sell these fuels at service stations around the state as soon as "flex-fuel" cars are available. A reformulated gasoline to power standard autos, while producing far less smog is also mandated.

Though there will, no doubt, be many technological gains to ameliorate our polluted air, we will never be able to overcome the problem, as long as the population continues to increase, and the number of vehicle miles driven yearly increases at an even faster pace.

How can we change the transportation blues to living green? We must see to it that we are all educated and made aware of the consequences of our transportation habits, good and bad. There are probably infinite ways to accomplish this, but which of these two ways or a combination of both do you think acceptable, effective, workable, and fair?

If you agree that the transportation of people and goods requires controls that restrict driving, we can implement market-place strategies by pricing or economic disincentives, such as higher tolls on bridges; a smog fee based on the actual emission of each car, requiring enhanced vehicle inspection and maintenance; and highway user fees particularly during commute hours: 6-9 AM and 4-6 PM. Incentives could be carpooling, carpool lanes, and no free parking at work. We have already seen the increase in gas tax from the passage of Prop 111, last June. This is an indirect way to level an emissions fee, since the more miles one drives, the more the increased emission will cost the driver.

Or mandatory restrictions can be placed by statute or regulatory obligations on state, county, and local governments as well as on individuals, such as permits for in-town driving, requiring public vehicles to use alternative fuels, and air pollution standards for urban areas.

Market-based approaches, according to the Bay Area Forum, is the better strategy to reduce vehicular emission in order to improve air quality. Users under this system retain their ability to choose among various options based on the cost of each alternative. Regulatory approaches, on the other hand, in their view, limit choices for the individual, create a bureaucracy for implementation, and unfairly single out a particular group for regulatory measures.

Our life styles can be enhanced if we work together in our communities and our regions. Our own lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren are at stake. As mother used to say, "When's there's a will, there's a way." One way to help rid the air of carbon monoxide and to replace the denuded areas with living green is to plant trees, not just in the rain forests of South America, but also in our own back yards. A typical healthy tree removes between 25 and 45 pounds of carbon from the air every year.

Ellen Douglas at the benefit for the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction said that she "got dislocated when she saw the first picture of the Earth from space. Nothing before had shown us how small it is, how suspended in darkness, how fragile, lit up like a soap bubble by the sun."

Pete Seeger sings, "One blue sky above us, one ocean lapping all our shore. One earth so green and round, Who could ask for more? And because I love you, I'll give you one more try, To show my rainbow race, It's too soon to die."

# May

## *May Day - May 1*

### **The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring**

(by Gilbert & Sullivan, from the "The Mikado")

The flowers that bloom in the Spring,  
Tra La,  
Breathe promise of merry sunshine

As we merrily dance and we sing  
Tra la,  
We welcome the hope that they bring,  
Tra la,  
Of a summer of roses and wine.  
Of a summer of roses and wine.  
And that's what we mean when we say that a thing  
Is welcome as flowers that bloom in the spring.  
Tra la la la la,  
Tra la la la la,  
The flowers that bloom in the spring,`  
Tra la la la la,  
Tra la la la la,  
Tra la la la la!

## *Mother's Day - third Sunday of May*

### **COURAGE**

by Edna St. Vincent Millay

The courage that my mother had  
Went with her, and is with her still:  
Rock from New England quarried;  
Now granite in a granite hill.

The golden brooch my mother wore  
She left behind for me to wear;  
I have no thing I treasure more;  
Yet, it is something I could spare.

Oh, if instead she'd left me  
The thing she took into the grave!  
That courage like a rock, which she  
Has no more need of, and I have.

### **Proud Mothers**

Some mothers are not famous, but their sons and daughters did important things. They must have been proud.

Mary Cassatt was a famous painter of women and children.  
Sandra Day O'Connor is the first woman justice on the United States Supreme Court.  
Dianne Feinstein was the mayor of San Francisco.  
Eleanor Roosevelt has been called the "First Lady of the World".  
Elisabeth Seton was named the first American saint in 1975.  
Martha Washington was the wife of the first President of the United States.  
Clara Barton founded and was president of the American Red Cross.  
Susan B. Anthony worked for equal rights for women. She is on the silver one-dollar coin.  
Marie Curie discovered radium and began work with x-rays.  
Sally K. Ride was the first American woman to fly in space.  
Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

## ***Memorial Day - May 30, celebrated on the last Monday of May***

In America, Memorial Day is now observed on the last Monday of May. It is a day to honor those men and women who have given their lives for their country. It is a time to remember what the union of the 50 states means. It is important to think about how our democracy can protect our freedoms and preserve world peace.

In Arlington National Cemetery, in Washington, DC we can see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Here lie men from the Army, the Navy, the Coast Guard, and the Air Force whose names are known only to God.

On this day, men, women and children lay flowers and place flags on the graves in military cemeteries like Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno. They often listen to a memorial musical concert.

Please write your answers.

1. When is Memorial Day?
2. Why do we honor our men & women?
3. Where is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier?
4. Where is the Golden Gate National Cemetery?
5. Is there a national cemetery in your native land?
6. Is there a tomb for an unknown soldier in the capital of your homeland?
7. Do you have a memorial day in your former country? When is it?
8. Which freedom do you like the best: religion, speech, assembly? Why?
9. How do you honor soldiers killed in action in your former country?

### **Study War No More - spiritual**

1.  
I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield,  
Down by the river side,  
Down by the river side,  
Down by the river side,  
I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield,  
Down by the river side,

Gonna study war no more.

Chorus:

I ain't gonna study war no more,  
I ain't gonna study war no more,  
I ain't gonna study war no more.

2.

I'm gonna walk with the Prince of Peace,  
Down by the riverside,  
Down by the riverside,  
Down by the riverside.  
I'm gonna walk with the Prince of Peace  
Down by the riverside,  
Gonna study war no more.

Repeat Chorus

3.

Yes, I'm gonna shake hands around the world,  
Down by the riverside,  
Down by the riverside,  
Down by the riverside,  
Yes, I'm gonna shake hands around the world,  
Down by the riverside,  
Gonna study war no more.

Repeat Chorus

1. Write one sentence stating what you will do to teach peace.  
Example: I will talk with my enemies, wherever they may be.

## June

### *Father's Day - third Sunday of June*

In the United States of America, Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June. Though we surely love our dads on all the other days of the year, on this day we try to find new ways to tell our fathers how much we appreciate them. We do this by sending them cards and gifts. In our churches we hear special sermons about fatherhood. TV and radio put on programs with music and biographies to honor these men.

One way many families compliment their fathers is to have a barbecue or cookout or take them out to a restaurant for a steak dinner.

### **Vocabulary**

appreciate  
barbecue  
biographies  
compliment  
cookout  
fatherhood  
new ways  
special sermons  
steak dinner

Write the answers to these questions.

1. When is Father's Day in the U.S.A.?
2. How do Americans show their fathers that they appreciate them?
3. What do the churches do for Father's Day?
4. What do TV and radio do on Father's Day?
5. How do families compliment their fathers?
6. When is Father's Day celebrated in your former country?
7. How do you show your fathers that you appreciate them there?
8. What special songs or poems do you sing or tell about your fathers?

## **My Father**

Read and comment on these thoughts about fathers:

My father was a principal of an elementary school.

My father was an honest person who had a high sense of responsibility and loyalty.

My father took care of his family very well.

My father attended a university.

My father was a great father to my family. He had a lot of skills. For example, he could play the violin very well. He also loved to play badminton and cook. He liked to grow his own vegetables.

My father took good care of his seven children and taught us to be good persons.

My father did not have a lot of money, but he gave us children a lot of love and a good life. We loved him very much.

My father was very handsome and also very kind. I appreciate all the love he gave our family. I always plan to remember my father on his birthday by singing his favorite song.

My father was a very good father, husband, and grandfather. He worked very hard all his life. All of our family have very good memories of my father. In his name, every day, I say, "Happy father's day!"

My father had a tiny frame. He was a man of good temper. He never blamed any member of our big family. He was extremely patient. When my mother got mad at him and seemed to seek a quarrel with him, he never fought back, just kept quiet.

My father was special. The thing about him was, he was not only a successful business man but also an entrepreneur.

My father, I would follow the American custom and give him an extra celebration to tell him how much I appreciate the fact that he gave me a good childhood.

My father had one son and one daughter. He was the best man in the world. He took good care of the family and gave us much love. I loved my father very much and always keep the memory of my father in my mind.

My father is the most important person in my life. Right now, we are very far away from each other, but in my mind and my heart, he is always present.

My father. When I remember all the days of my life with him, I can see that he is always beside me in the most important moments of my life.

My father was athletic during his youth. He is a good man who never drank alcohol or smoked. He is the best father in the world.

My father lives in a far country. Sometimes I call him to see if he is well. He's an old man now and very ill. When I think of him, I become very sad.

### **Proud Fathers**

Some men are not famous themselves, but they are the fathers of important men and women. They must be proud.

Thomas Alva Edison invented the light bulb.

Charles Duryea built the first automobile.

Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.

Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on the moon.

Samuel B. Morse invented the telegraph.

Orville and Wilbur Wright were the first to fly an airplane, successfully.

Jonas Salk discovered the polio vaccine.

## ***Summer Solstice - June 21 or 22***

The word “solstice” comes from two Latin words meaning “sun” and “stand”. June twenty-first or twenty-second is called the Summer Solstice, because at this time of year, the sun does not seem to change its height at noon for several days. It seems to stand still.

From December twenty-first or twenty-second to June twenty-first, in the Northern Hemisphere, the sun’s rays are less and less slanted. Each day we have a few minutes more light in the morning and evening, and our part of the earth grows gradually warmer. First we have spring and then summer.

The Summer Solstice has the longest day and the shortest night of the year. Another way to say this is that during the Summer Solstice, we have the most hours of light and the least hours of dark of any day of the year.

After the Summer Solstice, the days grow gradually shorter and cooler. Each day has fewer minutes of light and more minutes of dark.

It is because of this passage of the sun that we have a change of the seasons. So the Summer Solstice is what we call the beginning of the summer season.

1. What does the word solstice mean?
2. What is June twenty-first or twenty-second called?
3. When is the Summer Solstice?
4. Why is it called the Summer Solstice?
5. In what months of the year, in the Northern Hemisphere, do the rays of the sun become less and less slanted?
6. What date is the beginning of summer season?
7. What season comes just before the summer season?
8. What day in the year has the most hours of daylight?
9. What is the difference between the Summer and the Winter Solstices?
10. What will happen to the daylight after the Summer Solstice?

## **July**

### ***Independence Day - July 4***

#### **Liberty Bell**

The Liberty Bell is kept in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It arrived in America in 1752 and was rung for many historic occasions. On July 8, 1776, it rang on the most important occasion, of the announcement of the Declaration of Independence. Ever since then, it has been a symbol of our freedom from the colonial power of England. It cracked in 1835 when it was rung for the funeral of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Marshall. This bell is famous in American history. It is carefully guarded because it stands for freedom.

1. What is the name of this bell?
2. On what important occasion did it ring?
3. Where is the bell kept today?
4. When was the last time it rang?
5. Why should we love and honor this bell?

#### **Statue of Liberty**

#### **Vocabulary**

alliance - to remember, to mark with a ceremony.

commemorate - the distance across, at a right angle to the length.

contribute - to renew, to put back in good shape.

copper - a burning stick to give light.

enlighten - to picture to oneself, to have in mind.

envision - to inform, to give spiritual insight.

framework - to find how heavy a person or object is.

gateway - a soft metal of reddish color.

height - the basic structure, the skeleton.

repair - to give, to donate.

restore - to break apart.

sculptor - the opening, the entrance.

sculpture - a group of persons with the same interests.

shackle - to fix something that is broken.

shatter - something that prevents free action.

thrill - the artist who carves or molds a three dimensional figure.

torch - a art of forming an image in solid material, such as wood, stone, or metal.

weigh - to feel excited.

width - the distance from top to bottom, at a right angle to the width.

## **The Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Vocabulary**

allegiance - duty, support, loyalty

indivisible - cannot be divided or separated

justice - rightness, fairness

liberty - freedom, without the control of others

pledge - to give a formal promise or loyalty

republic - a government of elected representatives

## **The Star-Spangled Banner**

### **Vocabulary**

banner - flag, a piece of cloth representing a country or an idea

broad - wide

burst - to explode , break violently

dawn - the sunrise, a new day, day break

gallant - brave, without fear

glare - strong light, fierce red color

gleam - to shine with a soft light

hail - greet, call out to, welcome

perilous - dangerous, very harmful  
proof - the facts that show the truth, the test of correctness  
ramparts - the wall of a fort, a military protective bank of earth  
spangled - decorated with small circles of shining material  
streaming - to flow continuously, to move freely  
twilight - the first light of morning or of night

### **I Hear America Singing**

by Walt Whitman, 1819-1892

I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,  
Those mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe and strong,  
The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,  
The mason singing his as he makes ready for work or leaves off work,  
The boatman singing what belong to him in his boat, the deckhand singing on the steamboat  
deck,  
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing as he stands,  
The woodcutter's song, the plowboy's on his way in the morning or at noon intermission or at  
sundown,  
The delicious singing of the mother, or the young wife at work, or of the girl sewing or washing,  
Each singing what belongs to him or her, and to none else,  
The day what belongs to the day - at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly,  
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs.

1. Write your own lines to add to this poem, naming other occupations or new employment that Whitman did not know of at that time. Example: The computer operator listens to the singing on his/her CD-ROM.

## **September**

### ***Labor Day - first Monday in September***

Labor Day in America is a legal holiday to honor all workers who make the country so successful. It is a national holiday when many people do not have to labor. Men and women can relax with their children. They can take a picnic to a park or a beach. They can go to a museum, a concert or a ball game. Many families go shopping to buy clothes and supplies for the new school year. Others either march in a Labor Day parade or watch one go by.

Men and women formed unions during the Industrial Revolution to improve their working conditions. How did they do this? They organized unions, they went on strikes, they bargained, and they voted. Sometimes they got beaten up or thrown in jail, but the laborers believed in their democratic rights and in the dignity and the importance of their work.

Who are some of these workers? Police officers, firefighters, nurses, postal workers, teachers, flight attendants, steel workers, textile workers, miners, railroad workers, bus drivers, sanitary workers, janitors, and farm workers.

### **Vocabulary**

Child labor laws - no children under 16 working.

Disability insurance - protection against injury at work.

Eight-hour day - no required work over eight hours a day.

Employment of married women - single and married women may be employed.

Five-day week - two days off each week.

Health insurance - protection against illness.

Maternity leave - permission to go to the hospital to have a baby and then return to work.

Minimum wage - required basic pay per hour.

Overtime - pay increased by half for any time over eight hours.

Paid vacations - income during a yearly vacation.

Retirement pensions - money to live on when too old to work.

Safety measures - protection against work dangers.

Unemployment compensation - pay for a number of weeks when unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance - protection when not working.

Questions for writing and discussion:

1. What is or was your work, white collar (in an office) or blue collar (on a truck)?
2. What was good about this job (creative, of service, exciting)?
3. What was bad about this job (automated, dangerous, boring)?
4. Write down which of the 12 benefits listed above you enjoyed in your former country?
5. Comparing workers' problems in your former country with those in the U.S.A.
6. Write down three benefits for workers that you think are the most important for employees today. Explain why you think these are so necessary to have in the work place.
5. Discuss these with your group, comparing the workers' problems in your country with those in the U.S.A.

### **I've Been Working on the Railroad**

Listen to the song, "I've Been Working on the Railroad."

A key structure in this song is the use of the present perfect progressive: I've been working on the railroad.

Write two sentences using this structure. Example: How long have you been working for your present employer?

Another key structure in this song is the use of the present tense, negative form questions using "can't" and "won't." Can't you hear the whistle blowing? Can't you hear the captain shouting? Dinah, won't you blow your horn?

Write two sentences using the can't structure. Example: Can't you walk a little faster?

Write two sentences using the won't structure. Example: Won't you be late for your appointment?

### **Bread and Roses**

(Words by James Oppenheim. Music by Caroline Kohslect.

Inspired by a banner in the huge 1912 walkout of textile workers in Lawrence, MA)

As we go marching, marching, in the beauty of the day,  
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lots gray,  
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses,  
For the people hear us singing: bread and roses, bread and roses!

As we go marching, marching, we battle too for men.  
For they are women's children and we mother them again.  
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes.  
Hearts starve as well as bodies, give us bread, but give us roses.

As we go marching, marching, unnumbered women dead  
Go crying through our singing their ancient call for bread.  
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew.  
Yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses, too.

As we go marching, marching, we bring the greater days.  
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.  
No more the drudge and idler, ten that toil where one repose,  
But sharing of life's glories — bread and roses, bread and roses!

Discuss the meaning of the metaphors “Bread” and “Roses”. Though bread means bread, it also means the necessities of life, such as food, shelter, and income. Though roses mean roses, in this song it also means things outside the necessities of life, such as music, art, and beauty.

Do you think workers need and deserve to have both bread and roses in their lives?

### **Solidarity Forever**

(This song developed from an old Protestant meeting hymn, “Say Brothers, Will You Meet Us?” Then it was an election campaign song. Then it became a marching song of the Union soldiers, “John Brown's Body.” Then Julia Ward Howe wrote “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.” Finally, Ralph Chaplin wrote this fighting song for the Industrial Workers of the World or IWW.)

Chorus:

Solidarity forever, Solidarity forever,  
Solidarity forever, for the Union makes us strong.

1.

When the Union's inspiration through the workers' blood shall run,  
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun;  
Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one,  
But the Union makes us strong.

2.

Is there aught we hold in common with the greedy parasite  
Who would last us into serfdom and crush us with his might?  
Is there anything left to us but to organize and fight?  
For the Union makes us strong.

3.

It is we who plowed the prairies, built the cities where they trade,  
Dug the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroad laid,  
Now we stand, outcast and starving, 'mid the wonders we have made,  
But the union makes us strong.

4.

We women wash the dishes, cook the food and scrub the dirt,  
Drive the kids to school, buy groceries, and then go off to work  
Where we're paid at half the wages for a boss who likes to flirt.  
But together, we are strong!

5.

All the world that's owned by idle drones is ours and ours alone.  
We have laid the wide foundations, built it skyward stone by stone.  
Not to be enslaved in, but to manage and to own,  
While our rights will make us strong.

6.

They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn,  
But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn.  
We can break their haughty power, gain our freedom, when we learn  
That the union makes us strong.

7.

In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold,  
Greater than the might of armies, magnified a thousand-fold.  
We bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old,  
For the union makes us strong.

Listen to Pete Seeger's "Talking Union" or "Carry On" records to hear this song. Read the song.  
Discuss the meaning of each stanza.

1. Why do you agree or disagree with the idea in Stanza One that inspiration is the greatest power on earth?

2. Why do you agree or disagree with the idea in Stanza Two that by organizing workers can escape from servitude?

3. Why do you agree or disagree with the idea in Stanza Three that workers are not allowed to enjoy the fruits of their labor?
4. Why do you agree or disagree with the idea in Stanza Four that laborers also have the right to manage and to own the products they have made?
5. Why do you agree or disagree with the idea in Stanza Five that employers must share the rewards of work with their employees?
6. Why do you agree or disagree with the idea in Stanza Six that husbands should share the home chores with their wives, that women should be paid equally to men and that all workers should have a workplace free of sexual harassment?
7. Compose your own stanza about workers and unions. For example, "Solidarity forever, solidarity forever, solidarity forever, for the ... makes us strong."

### **Women Working**

Labor Day may seem to be mainly concerned with the work of men, but women, too, have worked just as long and just as hard as men. They have worked without pay in the home cooking, cleaning, and looking after the children. Their work has not been recognized, by economists, as increasing the gross national product, which is the total of all goods and services produced in the country. When men, without wives, have to pay wages to housekeepers for meal preparation, house cleaning, and child care, they begin to realize how much women's work is worth, in money and time.

Women, now and in the past, have also worked for no wages outside the house. They have walked miles to carry water from the well to the home. They have searched for hours trying to find fuel to cook and keep warm with . They have also done stoop labor in the fields, planting, weeding and harvesting. Usually, when farm machinery is available, the men do the easy work of running the machines, while the women continue to do the hard physical labor.

After working all the daylight hours in the fields, women's work is still not over. They then go home to prepare the evening meal. In many countries, the women must feed the men and the children first, and eat only what remains.

Even in the rich state of California, women and children work long hours in the fields. Often they have no toilet facilities there. They are exposed to pesticides, usually, have no permanent housing, and their wages are very low. Many immigrant women work at sewing machines for long hours at home or in sweatshops, far below the minimum wage, with no benefits. Perhaps, we should have a new holiday, Women's Work Day , to honor women who work for no pay, low pay and long hours.

Think about these ideas for writing and discussion:

1. Women should be given every opportunity for an education equal to that of men.
2. Women's diet should be as nourishing as that of men's, so that they can give birth to healthy children.
3. A suggestion to improve the work lives of the world's women.

### **Famous Working Women**

Though many women throughout history have labored without education and training, other women with talent and luck have had more rewarding work than cooking, cleaning, field work, and sewing. Giving girls a minimum education was thought adequate, as their education would be wasted because they would soon be married. For many years, in the United States, many men thought that women's minds were too weak for college study. Though men denied many women the education they needed, some have women dared to become doctors and scientists. Though men told their wives, daughters, and sisters that they could not become writers, many women did write. Though the politicians told women they did not have the right to vote, in America the suffragists' work finally achieved this when the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1920.

Here are some examples of women whose work has attained national success:

Amelia Earhart, aviator, was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.

Elizabeth Blackwell, doctor, opened her own hospital in order to help women.

Susan B. Anthony, suffragist, worked for the civic rights of Negroes and voting rights of women.

Maria Mitchell, astronomer, invented a telescope and discovered a comet.

Gloria Steinem, editor, created a magazine, Ms., which has made many women aware of their rights.

Dolores Huerta, labor organizer for the United Farm Workers, still works to improve conditions for all field hands, especially Mexican-Americans.

Mother Elizabeth Seton, educator, established the first free Catholic day school.

Joan Baez, singer, founded Humanitas to fight for civil and human rights.

Betty Friedan, author, a mother of the women's liberation movement, wrote *The Feminine Mystique*.

Shirley Chisolm, politician, was the first black woman to be elected to Congress.

Harriet Beecher Stowe, novelist, wrote the book Uncle Tom's Cabin, which made many white people understand how terrible is the life of a slave.

Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady, stood for justice for the poor, the blacks, and miners. She also represented the United States at the United Nations

Clara Barton, volunteer nurse in the Civil War, established the American Red Cross.

Think about these ideas for writing and discussion:

1. Women doctors, writers, scientists, educators, poets, painters, and labor leaders should be able to choose to do the work they wish to do.
2. Employers should/should not provide day care for their employees' pre-school children.
3. Fathers should/should not share with mothers the responsibility of staying home from work when a child or a parent is sick.
4. Girls should/should not have an equal opportunity with boys to participate in sports at school.

### **Workplaces**

For each workplace, is it dangerous, safe, hot, noisy, cool, smelly, quiet, large, dark, small, happy, sunny?

Airplane  
College  
Construction  
Hospital  
Mine  
Office  
Post Office  
Restaurant  
Train

### **Questions and discussion on Labor Day:**

1. What special day is today or this week or in the first week in September?
2. When is Labor Day in your country? How do you celebrate it?
3. Why should we celebrate Labor Day?
4. Isn't it ironic that we celebrate Labor Day by NOT working?

5. What does “ironic” mean?

6. Did you see anything on TV or hear anything on the radio or read in a newspaper anything about Labor Day?

7. Did you agree or disagree with what you saw, heard or read?

## ***Grandparents Day - second Sunday in September***

Grandparents Day in the United States is observed on the second Sunday in September. Probably, some families observe it, some do not.

Usually, grandparents are happy to have grandchildren. They can enjoy them even more than they could their own children, because they do not have direct responsibility.

Grandchildren usually have fun with their grandparents, because they do not see them every day. They plan to do interesting things together like having a picnic, baking gingerbread cookies, or reading together.

Children who have four grandparents are really lucky, especially at Christmas or on their birthdays. But some children may even have great-grand-parents. Talking to them about their childhood and life is a wonderful way to begin to understand history, to see the continuity of the family over a number of years

### **Vocabulary**

cookies  
enjoy  
fun  
gingerbread  
interesting  
lucky  
observe  
picnic  
plan  
responsibility  
wonderful

1. Do you have Grandparents Day in your former country? How do you celebrate it in your country?

2. What do you think grandparents can do for their grandchildren?

3. List the comparisons and contrasts between your life with that of your grandparents.

Similar to mine

Different from mine

Youth

Adolescence

Schooling

Love & marriage

Employment

Retirement

**September Song**

by Kurt Weill and Maxwell Anderson

Oh it's a long, long while from May till December,  
And the days grow short when you reach September.  
And the autumn weather turn the leaves to flame,  
One hasn't got time for the waiting game.

For the days dwindle down to a precious few:  
September, November,  
And these few precious days I'd spend with you.  
These precious days I'll spend with you.

When you meet with a young man early in spring,  
They court you in song and rhyme.  
They woo you with words and a clover ring,  
But if you examine the goods they bring,  
They've little to offer but the songs they sing,  
And a plentiful waste of the time of day  
And a plentiful waste of time.

1. Compare the "When you meet" stanza to the "When I was a young man" stanza. Why does he say he gives her tears, not pearls? Why does she say he gives her a ring made of the twisted stems of clover? Why does he say that he played a waiting game? Why does she say that he courted with song and rhyme? Why does he say "as time came around, she came my way"? Why does she say it was "a plentiful waste of time of day"?

## October

### *Columbus Day - October 12, second Monday of October*

On October 12, 1492, Columbus and his 120 men landed on an island he called San Salvador in the Bahamas, the West Indies. He thought he had found a short cut to India, so he called the people living there Indians. These native people were Lucayans, but today they are called West Indians.

He had hoped to bring gold and spices back to Spain to repay Queen Isabella for outfitting his three ships: the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria. He did not find much gold, but he did discover yams, beans, maize, and tobacco. These plants have probably made more money than he could have ever dreamed of.

Though Columbus had not found a new trade route to the East, he had come upon a new continent, South America, which lay between Europe and Asia, but he never did set foot in North America. Later these two continents were called the New World, but the native peoples had probably lived there for 1500 years.

1992 will be the 500th anniversary of Columbus historic landing. Many Americans think there should be a big celebration, but many native Americans think that the white man destroyed their rich civilizations; brought new, terrible diseases; killed or enslaved thousands; and colonized their independent peoples.

It is strange that our country is not called The United States of Columbus. But our Capitol is located in the District of Columbia. One of our great universities, in New York City, is called Columbia University. The Knights of Columbus is a society of Catholic men who do good works. Columbia is the capital of South Carolina. The Columbia River flows from Idaho, in the northwest, between Washington and Oregon into the Pacific Ocean. Columbus is the capital of Ohio and a city in west Georgia.

In San Francisco, every year for thirty years, Joseph Cervetto has put on his 600-dollar Columbus costume and waded ashore at Aquatic Park to honor the discovery of America. Then there is a Columbus Day Parade with 50,000 spectators watching 200 units marching for two hours along Columbus Avenue.

Answer the questions from your reading on this page.

1. In America, Columbus Day is celebrated when?
2. When did Columbus land on an island in the West Indies?
3. He brought back what plants to Spain?

4. What different things are named for Columbus?
5. What do you think our country should have been called and why?

### **Vocabulary**

Destroy  
Disease  
Dream of  
Enslave  
Kill  
Land  
Outfit  
Set foot  
Short cut  
Spices  
Trade route  
Wade

### **Questions for writing and discussion:**

1. What is good about Columbus' discovery?
2. What is bad about his Columbus' discovery?
3. Is Columbus' discovery celebrated in your former country?
4. What is named for Columbus in your former country?

### **Maps**

Columbus was born in Italy, got his ships in Spain, sailed to the Bahamas, did not know he had found South America, thought he was in India, crossed the Atlantic Ocean, and did not cross the Pacific. Locate these regions on a world map.

### **Columbus**

by Joaquin Miller

Behind him lay the gray Azores  
Behind the Gates of Hercules  
Before him not the ghost of shores  
Before him only shoreless seas.  
The good mate said: "Now must we pray,  
For lo! the very stars are gone.

Brave Admiral, speak, what shall I say?"  
Why say, "Sail on! sail on! and on!"

1. Find and underline once the "a" rhyme and underline twice the "b" rhyme of the rest of the stanzas.
2. Reread the poem stressing the four beats in each line: Behind — him lay — the gray — Azores.
3. Reread, line by line, explaining words and ideas.
4. Discuss metaphor: comparing two opposite things which are alike in one way.

Example:

The mad sea shows his teeth tonight.  
He curls his lip, he lies in wait  
With lifted teeth, as if to bite!

How is the sea like a mouth? (The foam of the breaking wave is like teeth. The wave is like the lips. The metaphor heightens the danger.)

What two opposite things are being compared? (The sea is compared to an attacking cat or bear, perhaps.)

How are the two opposites alike? (The sea and the cat are both ferocious.)

5. What is the poet saying about Columbus character? (He is courageous.)
6. Do you agree with this picture of Columbus?
7. Have you ever been on a small boat in heavy seas? Did you want to turn back?

### **Questions and Discussion on Columbus Day**

Is Columbus Day celebrated in any of the South American countries?

Did Columbus discover the mainland of North America? (No)

Who also discovered the mainland of South America? (Amerigo Vespucci in two voyages: 1499-1500 and 1501-02.)

Why is our country called America and not Columbia?

How did Columbus and other explorers treat the people they found in the New World?

Did you see anything on TV or hear anything on the radio or read in a newspaper anything about how America celebrates Columbus Day?

Did you agree or disagree with what you saw, heard or read?

## ***United Nations Day - October 24***

The United Nations was born in San Francisco on October 24, 1945. On Wednesday, October 24, 1990, it celebrated its forty-fifth anniversary. As it gets older, the U.N. does more good. Fifty-one countries signed the Charter of the United Nations on that day, hoping to bring peace to the world. Now there are more than 158 countries which meet at the United Nations Building in New York City. The Secretary General works hard to bring peace to the Middle East and all the world. The U.N. believes that all human beings are born free and equal. People everywhere should have all their rights and freedoms equally, no matter what their race, color, sex, language, religion, or political belief.

### **Vocabulary**

bang  
bow out  
cheer  
envy  
evidence  
gavel  
complain  
glorify  
logic  
take place

### **Discuss the following questions.**

1. Should the entire United Nations celebrate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America?
2. Did Leif Ericsson, sailing from Iceland, visit the New World several hundred years before Columbus? Why did they not establish colonies?
3. Did Columbus' discovery of the West Indies begin the colonization of the native peoples of North and South America? Was this take over right or wrong?
4. Did Irish priests also visit the New World before Columbus? Why did they not establish colonies?
5. Compare the English colonists with the Spanish colonists. Who did the most harm? Who did the most good?
6. Do you agree with the decision of the president of the General Assembly that the U.N. should not celebrate Columbus' discovery?

Read the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights together. Discuss how it is similar to the U.S. Bill of Rights.

## ***Halloween - October 31***

Halloween is short for the evening before All Saints' Day. "Hallow" means holy and "een" is short for evening or the time just before dark. It is no longer a religious holiday.

In the early years of our country, some women were thought to be witches because they had supernatural powers of magic. Many of these, like Joanne of Arc who heard voices from heaven, were burned at the stake.

In the United States, Halloween is a fun day. In America, children like to go trick or treating in their neighborhoods. The children put on costumes, wear masks, and go trick or treating. They walk around their neighborhoods, ring doorbells, and say, "Trick or treat." If they don't get candy or chewing gum to put in their pails, they may play a trick by turning over a garbage can or soaping the windows.

Since most American children have plenty of candy, now many children collect money for UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. These children ring the door bells and say, "Trick or treat for UNICEF". Every little bit of money they collect helps a needy child in another part of the world.

In Latin countries, All Saints' Day is still a religious occasion called Dias Des Muertes when people go to an extra church service to pray for the dead.

In Ireland, Halloween is a time when ghosts walk on earth again. The Irish believed that a man named Jack was so stingy that he was not allowed to enter heaven. But Jack was also barred from hell because he had played too many tricks on the devil. So his punishment was that he had to walk the earth carrying his lantern until Judgment Day. This may be where we get the name for the carved out pumpkin of jack-o'-lantern. Halloween for the Irish also marks the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter. A tradition in Ireland was that the future could be predicted on Halloween. A stew was prepared of onions, parsnips, and potatoes, but into was stirred a thimble, a coin, and a ring. The person who found the thimble in her serving would never marry. The one who found the coin would become very wealthy. Naturally, the fortunate individual who got the ring would marry within the coming year.

In England, there was a belief that if a young girl peeled an apple, all around in one piece, swung it around her head three times and let it drop to the floor, the peeling would take the shape of the initial of her sweet-heart.

### **Vocabulary**

bunny - a child's word for a rabbit

costume - a style of dress, clothes of another time or country

crown - a circle of gold

elf - a small, naughty fairy; an imaginary, magical being

ghost - the spirit of a dead person, a white shapeless form  
pointed - coming to a sharp tip or end, like a pencil point  
princess - the daughter of the king and queen  
witch - a woman who uses bad magic powers

## **November**

### ***Veterans Day - November 11***

Veterans' Day was first named Armistice Day, in 1919, to honor the dead of World War I. On the eleventh day, of the eleventh month at the eleventh hour, many Americans pause in their daily work or play to be silent for one minute.

It is tragic to think that that war, "the war to end all wars" has been followed by many more terrible battles. Here is a list of the numbers of Americans, only, who have died:

Revolutionary War, 1775-1783, 4,044.  
War of 1812, 1812-1815, 2,200.  
Mexican War, 1846-1848, 13,270.  
Civil War, 1861-1865, North, 360,000, South, 258,000.  
World War I, 1914-1918, 115,000.  
World War II, 1939-1945, 318,000.  
Korean War, 1950-1953, 33,000.  
Vietnam War, 1961-1873, 56,371.  
Gulf War, 1991, 200.

In many national cemeteries, such as at the Golden Gate in San Bruno and the Presidio in San Francisco, Boy and Girl Scouts place American flags on the row after row of white headstones. In Washington D.C., in the Arlington National Cemetery, special services are held at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Here lie men from the Army, the Navy, the Marines, and the Air Force who fell in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Inscribed on the white marble are these words:

Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God.

Abraham Lincoln's most famous speech honored those who are now buried at the Gettysburg National Cemetery in Pennsylvania:

We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom; and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

### **The Vietnam Memorial**

The Vietnam Memorial was designed by a woman student. It is unlike any other memorial such as the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, or the Jefferson Memorial in Washington D.C., but it had five million visitors in 1986.

It is a 500-foot-long chevron of polished black granite sunk into the ground. Though it was dedicated on November 11, 1982, many thousands of letters, messages, photographs, mementos, and flowers are still left daily at the foot of the wall near the name of some lost loved one. More than 58,000 names of men and women are etched into the highly polished the stone. Relatives, friends, families, and lovers look for their beloved's name, touch it, trace it, or pray by it . The strange thing is that this black wall acts like a mirror, so that people standing or kneeling there see their own image reflected onto the names of the dead.

**Questions for writing and discussion.**

1. Where are the war memorials in your former country?
2. What are they called?
3. Do you have a Veterans' Day in your former country?
4. When is it?
5. How do you celebrate it?
6. Do you think having Veterans' Day as a legal holiday favors the idea of war? If so, why? If not, why?
7. Does having this holiday make people try to prevent wars from ever happening?
8. Do you think there will always be wars on this Earth?

*Thanksgiving - fourth Thursday in November*

**Vocabulary**

cranberry

pie

turkey

wine

## **December**

### *Christmas - December 25*

#### **Vocabulary**

angel  
ball  
candle  
candy cane  
card  
carol  
drum  
festival  
friend  
fun  
goodwill  
holly  
lights  
love  
manger  
Merry Christmas  
mistletoe  
pine  
poinsettia  
presents  
reindeer  
ribbon  
Santa Claus  
sled  
snow  
star  
toy  
wreath  
Yule

#### **The Friendly Beasts**

Jesus our brother, kind and good,  
Was humbly born in a stable rude,  
And the friendly beasts around him stood:  
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,  
"I carried his mother up hill and down.  
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town.  
I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

"I," said the cow, all white and red,  
"I gave him my manger for his bed.  
I gave him my hay to pillow his head.  
I," said the cow, all white and red.

"I," said the sheep with the curly horn,  
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm.  
He wore my coat on Christmas morn.  
I," said the sheep with the curly horn.

Thus every beast by some good spell,  
In the stable dark was glad to tell  
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel.  
The gift he gave Emmanuel.

### **Oh! Christmas Tree**

Oh! Christmas tree, Oh! Christmas tree,  
How lovely are your branches!  
In beauty green will always grow,  
Through summer sun and winter snow.  
Oh! Christmas tree, Oh! Christmas tree,  
How lovely are your branches

### **We Wish You a Merry Christmas**

We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas,  
And a happy new year!

We all know that Santa's coming.  
We all know that Santa's coming.  
We all know that Santa's coming,  
And soon will be here.

### **Jingle Bells**

Dashing through the snow,  
In a one horse open sleigh,

O'er the fields we go,  
Laughing all the way.

Bells on bob-tail ring,  
Making spirits bright,  
What fun it is to ride and sing,  
A sleighing song tonight!

Jingle bells jingle bells, jingle all the way,  
Oh! what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh!

## *New Years Eve - December 31*

We are glad to say good-bye to the mistakes we made in the last year. We hope the new year will be more fortunate. So we make promises to do better. We make NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS. At the end of the year, we can see how many of our resolutions we have kept.

I heard a comedian say he makes resolutions like these: I will keep on smoking. I will not diet. I will never be on time to work. This way, when he breaks his resolutions, he is happy.

We celebrate the New Year by going to a party. There, at midnight, we put on party hats and toast in the new year at midnight. We blow and turn noise makers as this is supposed to frighten away the evil spirits. We kiss our friends and wish them A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Then we sing the Scottish song, "Auld Lang Syne", which reminds us of our old friends and the good time we used to have with them.

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Looking at American Holidays, A pictorial introduction to American language and culture, by Donna Anthony Drews, National Textbook Company, Lincolnwood, Illinois U.S.A. 1985, (paperback, 46 pages, 9x7 1/2 in.).

The following reference has a short paragraph about the holiday, preceded by a vocabulary list of phrases found in the paragraph, and followed by three or four questions for discovery of factual content. Then there are two or three questions for discussion, all on one double-spaced page. This text is intended primarily for elementary or high school students:

Multicultural Stories for the Beginning ESL Student, by Olivia Heathcote & Robert Miller, Paradox Press, Los Gatos, CA, 1984, (paperback, 48 pages, 8 1/2 x 7 in.).

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